

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
FARMERS' BULLETIN No. 1559

RURAL  
LIBRARIES



**T**HE MODERN FARMER is taking his place in the general scheme of things. Formerly isolated and segregated, he is now making new contacts. Many factors are bringing this about. Already stirred and awakened by extension activities, he is being made a member of a larger community by the consolidated school and his marketing organization. The telephone, rural free delivery, the phonograph, and the radio bring him the world's news, market information, and good music and entertainment, thus broadening his outlook and stimulating his wishes. The automobile and good roads greatly extend his trading area, widen his travel possibilities, bridge the gap between farm and town, and give him access to educational and cultural activities. The world is recognizing the farmer's new status, especially in a business way. His occupation is acquiring new dignity and power. He is thinking more for himself.

Farm men and women universally insist that their children shall have a better chance in life than they themselves had. Having gone through the struggling pioneer stage of muscular effort and hardship endurance, they demand a better chance for their children. If the farmer wants his children to continue in the farming business he wishes them to be better equipped in education and in modern farm methods than he is. If the farmer wishes his children to take up city occupations he wants them to have an equal chance in the battle of life with city children. Here is where the opportunities and obligations of library service enter. Twenty-seven million farm people with added interests and desires and a quickened curiosity are inquiring and eager for new knowledge. The public library, that great democratic institution, so universal and necessary for city people, should be made available to the farmer as he assumes these new relationships.

# RURAL LIBRARIES

By WAYNE C. NASON, *Assistant Agricultural Economist, Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics*

## CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Efficiency and satisfaction as related to agriculture-----	1	Types of rural library service, with specific examples—Continued.	
The opportunity of the library in agricultural education-----	1	County libraries-----	16
Library facilities for farm readers-----	4	Advantages of the county library system-----	41
Types of rural library service, with specific examples-----	4	How libraries are started-----	44
State extension libraries-----	5	The survey-----	44
Membership-fee libraries-----	7	The campaign-----	45
Municipal libraries-----	8	The book automobile-----	45
School-district public libraries-----	11	Library buildings-----	47
Township libraries-----	13	Library publicity-----	48
Community libraries-----	14	Conclusion-----	50

## EFFICIENCY AND SATISFACTION AS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

**R**URAL LIBRARIES naturally grow out of the demand for efficiency in agriculture. Efficiency and satisfaction are the keynotes of successful farming of the future. Skill is taking the place of chance; brain is superseding brawn; intelligence is replacing blind hope; education is displacing ignorance.

The farmer also needs and wants facilities for general culture and for a larger, richer, and more varied life. Along with efficient farming, and perhaps as a product of it, should go a contented farm people and a satisfying farm life. Cold efficiency is not enough. A mechanical type of life is not satisfying. Human elements are to be considered. The desire for financial reward may spur efficiency, but only happiness and contentment can maintain it. Efficiency is a means and not an end. The objective is a good kind of rural life—good homes, schools, churches, libraries, hospitals, and social and recreational facilities. Only these can keep the successful farmer on the farm. Only intelligence and skill can create and maintain a satisfactory farm life.

## THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE LIBRARY IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Education is an important factor in efficiency. Through education farmers can make themselves adequate to the solving of the perplexing problems confronting agriculture to-day.<sup>1</sup> Here is the great opportunity of the library, for the library is recognized as the second line of educational defense. The farmers of to-morrow may be edu-

<sup>1</sup> Studies by departments and colleges of agriculture of the relation of education to farm income among 4,979 farmers in nine States apparently show that the annual earnings of high-school graduates are 50 per cent greater than are those of common-school graduates and that the earnings of college graduates are 100 per cent greater than are those of high-school graduates.

cated for this purpose in the public schools if curriculum makers give agriculture its proper place. In this work the library may well assist. It takes its place in a rural community with the school and the church. (See fig. 1.) The library also has a great opportunity to help educate the adult farmer in his new duties. Whether the library will seize the opportunity presented depends upon the assumption of a rural-minded attitude by the great library associations, by the library training schools, and by librarians themselves. The field is open and is rich in promise.

The modern idea of a library is a service of books rather than a storehouse of books; a librarian is a distributor of books—the right book to the right person at the right time—rather than a custodian of books. The best librarians anticipate the particular book needs of individuals and groups. The efficiency of a library is judged



FIG. 1.—Jackson County Free Library, Medford, Oreg.

more by the number of books in the hands of people who need them than by the number on the shelves. There is a wide-open field of usefulness for the librarian who sees beyond the immediate need and is able to supply the farmer with the information needed at the time needed, thus helping the farmer to learn to cope with his new responsibilities.

There is a movement whose extent and future promise of growth are little realized. Adult education means that education does not cease with the school but continues through life. It is usually undertaken as a supplement to some primary occupation, but it also involves general culture. A leading authority points out that there are five times as many adults pursuing some form of educational study as are registered as candidates for degrees in all the colleges and universities in the country. The leaders of the 17,000,000 industrial workers have recognized the importance of adult education by establishing

labor colleges, by encouraging attendance at night schools and part-time schools, and by organizing workers' education classes. In this work capital assists. Folk high schools for general culture and adult schools where agricultural cooperation is studied are given much credit for Denmark's great agricultural advance.

Something has been done along the line of adult education for farmers through extension activities, farmers' short courses, vocational education, etc. Part-time and continuation schools are few, however. The dearth of rural public libraries has prevented the linking up of the program with the library. General extension of rural public libraries and cooperation between extension agencies and library authorities should greatly extend the work of adult farm education. (Fig. 2.)

Several California counties have attempted something of the kind in cooperation with the county agent by lending agricultural books



Fig. 2.—The county librarian (seated) and the county farm adviser of Solano County, Calif., carry books in bags to this public library station in a country school

and bulletins to farm bureau classes for study purposes. The county library at Greenville, S. C., furnishes books for "lay-by" schools between planting and harvest times for remote farm people of meager education. Over 9,000 farmers enrolled in 1927 in vocational evening classes conducted by agricultural teachers in Southern States.

A few rural librarians are taking full advantage of such facilities as they have for assisting in training the farmer in his special lines of work, but greater use could be made, even by trained librarians, of the large quantity of inexpensive material in the form of publications, bulletins, etc., published by agricultural colleges and departments of agriculture, along farming and home economics lines. The former idea that book knowledge is useless is passing. The librarian can do much to eradicate it by offering from his library material definite solutions for particular farm problems. The few librarians who do make effective use of Government publications among farm people are enthusiastic as to results.

As the demand for efficient farming and a satisfying farm life becomes insistent, a great interest in libraries may be expected to arise among farm people.

#### LIBRARY FACILITIES FOR FARM READERS

When facilities for library service for rural people are examined, some striking facts are found. According to figures given by the American Library Association there are 5,954 public libraries<sup>2</sup> in the 3,065 counties in the United States. But 1,135 counties have no public libraries within their borders. It is estimated that 45,069,897 people are without public-library service. Of these 42,152,291, or 93 per cent, are rural (living in the open country or in places having less than 2,500 population). Eighty-two per cent of the rural population of the United States do not have public-library service, as compared with 6 per cent of the urban population who do not have such service. This does not take account of State service. The deficiency in library service to negroes is even more impressive.

The cost of this public-library service in the United States, in a recent year, was \$35,347,156, or 33 cents per capita for all people of the United States, or 59 cents per capita for people in public-library-service areas. In rural sections 59 cents will buy one-third of one good book. The national bill for soft drinks is eleven times as large as the public-library bill; the radio bill twelve and one-half times as large, the moving-picture bill twenty-two times as large, and the candy bill twenty-eight times as large as the public-library bill.

Results of surveys indicate that the farm people are readers, especially during the long winter evenings. Their reading matter consists largely, however, of farm journals and local newspapers rather than books. Good books are expensive, and in rural communities they are few and are of limited variety. The executive secretary of the Louisiana Library Commission, who has had much experience in county library work, states that farmers read more informational literature than do city people. Farmers not only read concerning their own business but they want something outside their own special interests. The real test of farm people as readers comes with the use they make of their own public-library facilities where they have them. These indicate a use of books and a library interest which compares favorably with that of city people.

A few towns and cities open their libraries to country people without charge, but these facilities are not used largely by farmers, who are inclined to look upon the library as a town institution for town people, and who hesitate to accept such courtesies. It is in cases where rural people have their own libraries, financed and maintained by themselves, with a trained librarian whose aim is service to rural people, that farm people show their library interest and use of books.

#### TYPES OF RURAL LIBRARY SERVICE, WITH SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

Public-library service has been recognized as an educational function by legislative enactment, by court decree, and by public opinion.

<sup>2</sup> "Public libraries" has been interpreted to include all libraries that give general free public service under any form of management and support.

It was nearly 100 years before the ideal of a free public school became established. Meanwhile the free public library is taking its place beside the free public school as an educational institution. Various types of libraries are found in the rural field, such as State extension, membership fee, municipal, school district, township, community, and county libraries.

#### STATE EXTENSION LIBRARIES

An attempt has been made to relieve the rural-library situation through special State library extension agencies. Massachusetts led off in 1890, and now 40 States have such agencies in operation. These agencies operate through State library commissions and State libraries or as divisions of State departments of education.

The function of these agencies is state-wide library service through aiding the organization of local and county libraries; the improvement of established libraries; giving supplemental book service to existing libraries; and furnishing direct book service to local communities, groups, and individuals until adequate local service is instituted. This last-named service is performed through the establishment of traveling libraries, package libraries, and direct book service to individuals. (Fig. 3.)

#### TRAVELING LIBRARIES

Traveling libraries were initiated by New York State in 1892, and 35 States now have such service. Such libraries consist of regular and miscellaneous collections of about 50 books, mostly for general reading, sent out to communities, schools, and rural organizations generally upon payment of postage or a small fee. Books may be kept and circulated from three to six months, after which they are returned to headquarters for relending. Some States send collections only to places where there are no local public libraries, whereas others use them also to supplement local libraries. A large number of the collections go to schools for reference work. Some States include special collections on agriculture.

#### PACKAGE LIBRARIES

Package libraries consist largely of packages of pamphlets, clippings, and material regarding current events for special purposes, such as debates, study courses, and club programs. Packages are usually sent free or upon payment of postage. The system was begun by the Oregon Library Commission in 1905 and many States have followed it. Wisconsin University began similar work in 1906 and now 34 universities offer such service. The number of packages sent out by universities varied in a recent year from 180 packages from the University of Montana to 17,977 packages from the University of Texas. Nine States do not have package library service. Much of the package service goes to schools and some States give especial attention to farmers.

#### DIRECT MAIL SERVICE OF BOOKS TO INDIVIDUALS

A recent and growing form of State library extension is direct mail service of books to individuals. From one to several books are

sent, upon request, for several weeks, the borrower usually paying the postage. Over 600,000 books were mailed out in this way during a recent year. Delaware and Vermont deliver also by book automobile. The service is in no wise confined to rural districts.

State library-extension activities have resulted in great good to many rural people. Many have been supplied with books who could



FIG. 3.—North Carolina traveling libraries at Raleigh. Boxes of books are sent to rural communities for temporary use

get them in no other way, and many isolated communities have come into touch with the best literature and information in this way. Schools, clubs, and debating societies have received much needed assistance. But no one claims that these agencies are much more than a beginning in relieving the rural book situation. No information is available as to the actual individual circulation of the material, but

it is known that much of it does not go to rural people, and a large share of it goes to schools and to local libraries. One and a half million books in 1,900 collections and by direct mail are reported to have been sent out from extension headquarters in the various States to be circulated in the field during a recent year. One important result has been the establishment of many local rural libraries. Massachusetts and California have given up their traveling systems on account of extensive local and county library development. The most important rural service of State extension agencies may be that of encouraging the establishment of adequate local libraries through expert advice from the central office and with the assistance of traveling organizers.

Notwithstanding the good work done, State library extension activities are limited by (1) lack of contact between librarian and borrowers and direct personal supervision and service, (2) ineffectiveness of scattered effort and long-range work, (3) inadequate choice of selection by borrowers, as collections are largely arranged at headquarters, (4) cost of transportation and duplication, and (5) insufficient book supply, personnel, and financial income to render adequate library service to the 43,000,000 rural people who are without local public-library service, even if this were the sole object.

#### MEMBERSHIP-FEE LIBRARIES

Various methods are undertaken to satisfy book hunger in rural communities. In villages and in many larger places a common form of book service has been the membership library—a group of interested people form a library association with annual membership dues. Book service is usually confined to those who pay the fee, although the library is often freely open to the public for reading purposes. The money received from fees is usually augmented by voluntary contributions and receipts from entertainments. Such libraries are located mostly in villages, but farm people are generally allowed to join, although they do so but infrequently.

Many such libraries have had a precarious and struggling existence. Voluntary or poorly paid and untrained librarians; infrequent opening hours; shifting, rented, or donated quarters; the small number of books, many of them second hand; the constant yearly financial struggle—these are some of their limitations. Such libraries scarcely touch the real book need of farmers, while village people accept them as seemingly the best substitute for something better. Considering their possibilities and limitations, they have much to their credit in the past in service to their membership and have often been the foundation and inspiration of succeeding libraries of better types. They are not public libraries in the sense that tax-supported institutions are, and they are scarcely a factor in solving the problem of book service for farm people.

#### CLARKSVILLE LIBRARY, CLARKSVILLE, MO.

The first library in Clarksville, Mo., a village of 729 persons, was opened in 1900. A band of women was responsible for its establishment, and for 10 years they kept it going through receipts from entertainments and voluntary public contributions of money and books. For several years the library was in a room of the school

building, but as it continued to grow in books and usefulness a home of its own was desired. The women had been continually accumulating money from receipts from rummage sales, food exchanges, local plays, flower shows, lawn fetes, and public lectures and from public contributions. In 1910 the new building was completed, and the opening was a civic and educational event. The building and grounds cost \$4,500. The grounds and the brick for the building were temporarily donated, but by 1920 the property was completely paid for through voluntary effort. (Fig. 4.)

The people responsible for the library were interested not merely in books. An early morning visit to this library revealed one of the library board and several members of the club doing voluntary work improving the grounds. The building is of brick, one floor and basement, centrally located, and well planned architecturally. Vines cover the walls, and plantings veil the base angles. Well-kept lawns with trees, shrubs, and a privet hedge add to the setting.



FIG. 4.—The women of Clarksville, Mo., are responsible for this library in a village of 729 people. The cost of the library was \$4,500

When the building was dedicated a library club was formed, with \$1 annual membership dues which entitle members to use the books and to vote in official matters. Memberships are open to country people, but only 15 have taken them. The members elect a library governing board of 7 members—2 men and 5 women. The building is the property of the library club. It costs \$150 a year to maintain the library, and expenses are met by receipts from entertainments. The officials are enthusiastic as to "its great benefit to the people, breaking the monotony of small-town life," and believe that "its growth and appreciation after 26 years demonstrates the need for it and its benefit to the community."

#### MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES

Municipal libraries, owned and supported by villages and small towns, are rather common in rural territory, especially in the eastern

section of the country. They are supported by fixed tax rates or regular sums voted from the general fund. Sometimes they are a donation to the town. Often they are former membership-fee or community libraries that were taken over by the town. They are usually restricted in their use to citizens of the municipality, but they sometimes extend their facilities for a fee, or infrequently, as a courtesy to neighboring farming communities, especially where efforts are being made toward town and country cooperation. They frequently serve fairly well as rural institutions to the people of small municipalities, but they are not often acceptable service institutions to farm people, who find them inconvenient on account of distance and infrequent opening hours. They consider them as town institutions in which they have no part and in the ownership or control of which they do not share.

Many such libraries have been instruments of service, but their sphere of usefulness is often limited, according to modern conceptions of library functions, by insufficient funds received from so small a taxing unit. Thus it is impossible to have a trained librarian or a comprehensive supply of books or to do extension library work. With the small salaries paid, the way is open for appointments based on need rather than skill. Early library history in small towns, however, is replete with notable exceptions in which ill-paid librarians with little or no training or experience have performed exceptionally meritorious service.

#### VILLAGE LIBRARY, THORP, WIS.

For 15 years the people of Thorp, Wis., a village of 796 persons, have been taxing themselves to support a library and make it freely available to farm people. The library-use line of demarcation between village and country people does not exist. Although the country people are not taxed for village library privileges, they use them freely and join with the village people in voluntary financial support of the library.

The library had its origin in 1893 in a small traveling library sent out by the State. Stimulated by this, but wishing something better, many people donated books for a library. About 1901 a local women's club adopted the library as its special project. Its early support was derived from receipts from entertainments sponsored by the club and participated in by town and country people alike.

While the club was industriously working to support the library by increasing the book supply, it was systematically laying aside a building fund. In 1906 the club purchased a building and fitted it up for library purposes at an expense of \$300. (Fig. 5.) In 1911 the village itself came to the support of the library by voting a 0.5 mill maintenance tax, and the library was placed in the name of the village. As the library continued to grow in usefulness the club proceeded to accumulate a fund, through receipts from entertainments, for a permanent building, meanwhile voting a sum for yearly maintenance.

In 1926 a visitor to this small village is impressed with the library interest in the community as typified by a new, attractive, well-planned building, well placed on grounds made inviting by trees, flowers, and shrubs. The building, 46 by 18 feet, is of wood with

stucco finish, and has one floor and a basement. In the basement are the workroom, storeroom, furnace, and toilets. There is a hot-air one-pipe system of heating and ventilation. The library proper, on the first floor, receives adequate light from the high windows and the electric-light system. The floor is covered with linoleum and the furniture is of oak. The clock was presented by the American Legion, and a silk flag was given by the woman's relief corps.

The building and lot together are valued at \$5,500, including materials from the old building, the trading of lots, etc. Actual financing involved \$4,200, of which \$2,500 came from the women's club; \$1,000 remained from a Red Cross fund and \$700 was accumulated by the library board. The village itself gave nothing to finance the building, but had previously raised the library maintenance tax from 0.5 to 0.8 mill.



Fig. 5.—Voluntary town and country effort erected this \$5,000 municipal library building at Thorp, Wis.; population, 796. The library is maintained by village tax

There were over 3,000 volumes in the library, and 761 active borrowers' cards were in use in 1926. The influence of the library as a community institution extends into the country 8 to 10 miles, but there is no limit to its sphere of activity. It is supported and used by country people and is of especial assistance to the pupils of the high school. Like larger libraries, it features story hours for children.

The library received \$1,075.75 for support from the village treasurer for the 13 months ended January 31, 1927, of which about \$866 was village tax money and the remainder had been deposited by the women's club. Current running expenses are taken care of by money from book fines, a fund which the library retains. The assessed valuation of the village in 1926 was \$955,423.

The library is governed by a board of three trustees appointed by the village president, and is open six hours a day three days a week. A new librarian was appointed in 1926, and the salary schedule was

increased. The mediums of library publicity are local newspapers and bulletin boards.

As they now have a library building, it is natural to expect a greater extension of the use of library facilities to rural people.

#### SCHOOL-DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARIES

School-district public libraries are found in Ohio, Missouri, Delaware, and other States. The school district is the unit for public-library taxation and administration. The district may cover only a municipality, or it may extend into rural sections; it may be a country district, often a consolidated-school district; it sometimes covers more than a township.

In Ohio the library may be established by the board of education, but it is administered by a separate board of library trustees appointed by the board of education. The trustees hold title to the property, erect buildings, appoint the library staff, prepare the budget, and set the tax rate—the rate not to exceed  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mills, which may be modified, but not arbitrarily, by the board of education.

Eighty-six libraries have been established under this law in Ohio. Many have changed from municipal or membership libraries in order to secure an adequate income. The Cleveland and Dayton public libraries are school-district libraries. Ohio also has the county-unit system.

#### SCHOOL-DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY, MILAN, OHIO

About 1877, a group of citizens formed the Milan Library Association. Through public subscriptions \$50 was raised, and 100 books were purchased. Drug and jewelry stores housed the library for many years. Books were added gradually through receipts from entertainments and through a 50-cent membership fee.

In 1891 the township trustees levied a tax of 0.1 mill on village and township property for the maintenance of a township library, and the property of the library association was turned over to the township. The 50-cent membership fee was continued. The room rent and librarian's salary together were \$25 a year. In 1896 the library of 450 books was moved to the office of the clerk in the town hall. In 1899 the income from the township tax was \$99 and from memberships \$39, for a library of 750 volumes. The librarian's salary was \$35 a year.

In 1909 the township tax levy was increased to 0.3 mill, and produced a yearly income of \$375 for a library of 2,000 volumes. The library was made a free township library, and the librarian's salary became \$60 a year. The number of patrons increased during the following year from 75 to 250.

The new interest taken in the library resulted in a demand for a permanent building. Two residents gave lots for the site, the Carnegie Corporation of New York gave \$10,000 for the building, and the township guaranteed a stated sum for maintenance. (Fig. 6.) The new building was dedicated in 1912. Bronze tablets in the library give recognition to the donors. Milan has been fortunate in having local citizens who have been willing to give time, energy, and substance to the library. The people have been ever

ready to assist the library through benefit entertainments. Moreover, one of the donors of the library site, a former citizen, gave an endowment of \$6,000 (the interest to be used for books) and a collection of autographs and pictures. A woman citizen gave \$1,000 for similar purposes.

In 1925 it was decided to take advantage of the Ohio school-district library law, as amended in 1923. The township board by resolution turned the library over to the board of education of the school district, which has a larger territory and a population of 1,721. The board of education appointed a board of seven library trustees, including the three former members. Of these, three are farmers. The library board has charge of the expenditure of funds and the administration of the library and holds title to the library property. The library board prepares the library



FIG. 6.—A corner of the school-district public library at Milan, Ohio

budget and submits it to the school board, which levies the tax. The tax was 0.75 mill in 1925. This money does not come from the school fund, and the tax is made above the general 15 mill limitation.

In 1926 there were 7,556 books, periodicals, pictures, etc. in the library. There were 1,076 active borrowers' cards, three-fifths of them held by farmers. The circulation was 19,785 books—11.43 times the population served. The books are used much by the schools for reference purposes; sets of 25 or more books are placed in the rooms of grades above the first. Pupils also have access to the main library. The librarian gives a short course in the schools on the use of the library and one on library economy and cooperates in the pupils' reading course.

The library was open 307 days in 1925, 10½ hours a day except during school vacations, when it was open 5½ hours. The librarian

had three part-time assistants during the year. The building has an assembly room which was used 115 times for public purposes.

*Financial statement of school-district public library, Milan, Ohio, 1926*

*Receipts:*

Taxes, school district--	\$2, 803. 80
Taxes, county-----	52. 70
Interest from endow- ments-----	351. 00
Fines-----	53. 43
Gifts-----	2. 10
Miscellaneous-----	9. 45
Total-----	3, 272. 48
Unexpended balance from previous year--	857. 10
Grand total-----	4, 129. 58

*Expenditures:*

Books and periodicals--	\$646. 42
Binding-----	97. 50
Salaries, library serv- ice-----	1, 608. 26
Salaries, janitor serv- ice-----	112. 60
Heat and light-----	397. 14
Insurance-----	77. 25
Miscellaneous-----	121. 79
Total-----	3, 060. 96
Balance on hand-----	1, 068. 62
Grand total-----	4, 129. 58

The school-district valuation for tax purposes is roughly \$4,000,-000. There is a small collection of books from the county library in this library.

Publicity is given to the library through monthly reports, lists of new books, and occasional notes in the local paper; through notices of library hours posted in public places; and through the annual celebration of library day. During the 1925 celebration there were 500 visitors, and a social program was held in the assembly room. As a result 70 new library cards were taken out. Children's book week is celebrated annually.

TOWNSHIP LIBRARIES

There are 475 township libraries in 13 States, mostly in the Middle West and in New York. The first State constitutions of Indiana and Michigan provided for them, but the provisions were not universally carried out. As the leading town becomes more populous it often adds its separate tax support to the township library which becomes more of a town library. In populous and wealthy townships, the township may be a unit of effective service as it is easily supervised and people are near the library. Some well-to-do township libraries support book automobiles for delivering books to rural branch libraries. In townships that are less wealthy and populous the amount of tax support is not sufficient to give effective service to rural people. In New England the rural-library unit is often the town, comparable to the western township.

TOWNSHIP LIBRARY, OTSEGO, MICH.

When the first settlers came to the Otsego country in 1839, it was a wilderness, and railroads were unknown. Notwithstanding the hardships of felling forests, building roads, and fighting wolves, these pioneers early laid the foundation for a good kind of rural civilization, for it was in 1844, only five years after the first settlement, that the township people in town meeting voted \$25 to start a township library.

The library went through the usual vicissitudes. It was transferred from the town clerk's office to private homes and in 1861 to the new town hall. Good books were difficult to buy. There came a lull in library activities. Some of the village people thought they should have a library of their own, and a women's library was organized in the seventies with great enthusiasm. The enthusiasm carried so far that a library building was erected through a great display of community effort in securing money and voluntary labor. Considerable money was borrowed and was later repaid through receipts from entertainments.

Enthusiasm for the women's library finally waned, however, and in 1905 the building and books were sold to the township for \$1,500, which money was turned over to local churches. Then began a period of success for the township library, which in 1911 had 3,000 books. New books were bought or were donated. Money and labor were donated for painting the building, buying new equipment, installing steam heat in the building, and improving the grounds.

Meanwhile the village of Otsego increased in population and wealth and became incorporated as a town. Under the new scheme of maintenance the library, in 1925, received \$1,021.31 from taxation in about the proportion of township one-third and town two-thirds. Receipts from other sources amounted to \$101.47. Expenses were \$1,116.67, of which \$282.27 was spent for books and \$456.55 for salaries. The town and township maintain a rest room in the library building.

There are 933 registered borrowers and 4,695 books. The circulation is 20,189 books and 1,503 magazines, one-fifth of which represents circulation to rural people. During 11 months the number of persons who read in the library was 4,643, and in 4 months searches were made to answer 270 questions. The library supplies country schools with books, pictures, magazine files, etc. It is open three afternoons and evenings each week. There is no special library board, but there is an advisory committee on the choice of books.

The building is a wooden one-story-and-basement structure, 60 by 40 feet in size. The library occupies the first floor; the public rest room and a health center occupy the basement.

The library has about 1,000 Government publications, many of them bulletins, each in a separate classified envelope.

What the library has to offer is made known to the public through biweekly announcements in newspapers; through distribution of book lists; and through furnishing country schools with pictures, magazine files, and reference books.

#### COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

The phrase "community library" as here used means a library that is open freely to the people of a community; that is not supported by taxation or membership dues but rather by the voluntary common interest of the people of the community; that extends its usefulness to all in the community; that is used by a very considerable part of the community; and that, although perhaps sponsored and ultimately controlled by a single organization, is the care and charge of all the people. Libraries of this type are maintained by

annual drives and receipts from entertainments, generally with a woman's organization as sponsor. With no assured sums for support, their financial future is continually uncertain and indefinite, which makes long-time policies impossible and extension service difficult. Although handicapped by low salaries or by no salaries for the volunteer workers, by short opening hours, and a small book supply, they accomplish much good in rural sections. A number of such struggling libraries are keeping lighted the torch of learning, waiting for some civil unit to assume the responsibility.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, CLINTON, KY.

Hickman County Library is the name of the library at Clinton, Ky., although neither the county nor the town gives financial assistance. It is so named in order to encourage its use by farm people. Its use is not only free to all the county, but country people are encouraged to use it and do use it. It is the only library in this county of 10,244 population. It is the only place in the county where books can be obtained, as there is no bookstore in the county. Agriculture is the universal occupation. One of the chief aims of this library is to help wipe out the considerable amount of illiteracy in the county.

The women's club, composed of 50 women, mostly wives of farmers, is the motivating force, and title to the institution is vested in it, but the library is a popular public institution supported by both town and country people who are carrying out a county-wide community enterprise. The library originated in 1916 from a "book shower," which brought 60 books and \$25. From year to year other similar entertainments and gifts brought more books. Two men provided shelter for the collection for a few years, and later a store was rented. In January, 1925, a house in a central location was bought for \$2,700 to be used as a library. The plan called for the removal of the building in later years and the erection of a library building. Two men were persuaded to buy the building and lot, for which \$700 was paid down by the women's club from a fund which had been gradually accumulated for this purpose from receipts from entertainments. Notes which bore 6 per cent interest were given for the remainder. The building was reconstructed, and water was put in at a cost of \$600. This was financed by receipts from entertainments and by public donations, in all of which country people played a part. Some money remaining from a war-time fund was used, and material and labor were donated.

The building has a book room, a reference room, a museum, an equipped kitchen, a hall room, and an assembly room (with movable chairs) which is used also as a reading room.

There are 2,475 volumes in the library. The circulation was 3,092 books in 1926, and 1,102 people were registered as borrowers, of whom one-half lived outside this town of 1,455 population. Town and country schools obtain their reference material from the library.

The museum, given by a local woman citizen, consists of such exhibits as Civil War, World War, and Indian relics, minerals,

shells, ship models, and old newspapers of historical value, all of which are labeled.

The library is in charge of a board of five members who appoint the librarian. The expense of maintaining the library from June 5, 1925, to June 5, 1926, was \$1,262.86, which included expenses of reconstructing the new building. The important ordinary annual expenses are librarian's salary, \$144; janitor's salary, \$60; interest, \$120; insurance, \$15; fuel, \$15; water and light, \$26; and new books, \$60. These expenses are met regularly by various kinds of local entertainments participated in by town and country women.

The women are undaunted by the \$2,000 debt. They regard it as a stimulus. They know that continued work, more community effort, and mutual aid by town and country people will eventually wipe it out. It must be liquidated, for they see in the future a new library building on the same spot. They also see illiteracy wiped out, rural book-hunger satisfied, children's mental wants supplied, a higher level of general intelligence, and better town and country cooperation.

#### COUNTY LIBRARIES

A recent development is the county library. The first county free libraries were established in 1898 in Van Wert County, Ohio, and Washington County, Md., as original county libraries, and in Hamilton County, Ohio, through extension of the privileges of the Cincinnati Public Library to the people of the county. Two-thirds of the States have passed laws permitting the establishment of such libraries. Two hundred and forty-five counties are financing some form of county service. Since the State law was passed in 1920 the people of one-third of the 21 counties of New Jersey have voted to establish county-tax libraries, which are now in successful operation. Of the 58 counties in California, 46 have county libraries. Two counties, Mariposa and Plumas, have recently contracted with the neighboring counties of Merced and Sierra for library service.

The county library is a central free library for the whole county with more or less extensive and changing collections of books established throughout the county in the form of branches (fig. 7) or station libraries or school collections. Books are transported from the central library to these branch or station libraries near the people to be served (fig. 8) or to the people direct by book automobile, by mail, or by other mode of transportation.

The central library is open to all, and individual book service is available by mail. The central library may be a newly established one, or the county may contract for county service with an existing city or neighboring county library. It is established by vote of the people or their representatives, the county governing body, and is maintained by a small tax or money voted from the county fund. It may be a gift to the county. It is governed by the county board or by a library board appointed by the county board and is operated by a librarian who is trained in a library school and who is assisted by a competent staff, some of whom make frequent visits to the country branches. Existing libraries usually may come into the system or remain independent.

County libraries are now circulating not only books and periodicals but phonograph records, pictures, films, lantern slides, sheet

music, stereographs and charts, globes, and supplementary school material.

SUTTER COUNTY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YUBA CITY, CALIF.

Sutter County is purely agricultural and has no factories. It has a population of 10,115, and an area of 608 square miles. Most of the Yuba City population of 1,708 are connected with agriculture. Previous to 1917 there was no public library in the county. Various local groups who felt the need of a library sent to the State library for a library organizer, and it was decided to take advantage of the State county free-library law. Petitions were circulated and signed requesting the county board of supervisors to establish such a library. After giving two public notices of intention in newspapers, the supervisors voted, in 1917, to establish a separate county library including the whole county for library and tax service, and voted a 0.35 mill tax for maintenance, which produced \$4,342. This tax was later raised to 0.4 mill and then to 0.5 mill.

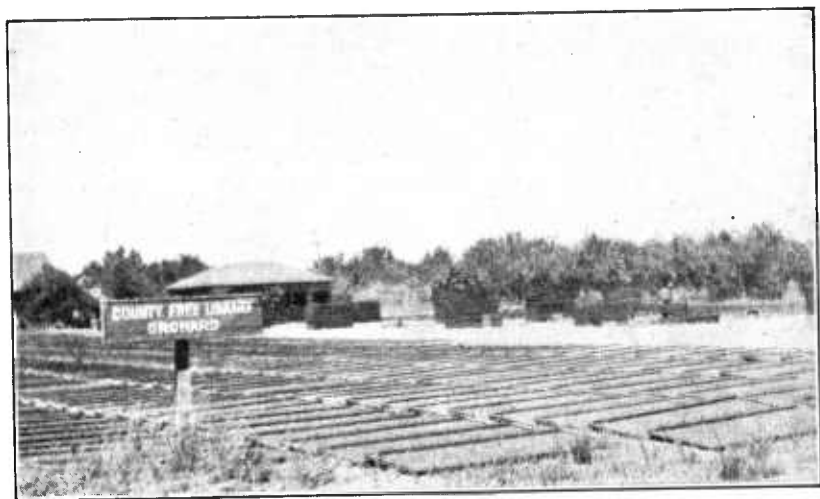


FIG. 7.—This library sign points the way to the farmhouse among the trees where a library station of the San Joaquin County (Calif.) Free Library is maintained for the benefit of the farming community of Orchard

The library has a central location in Mission Hall, a building purchased by the county. The library occupies two-thirds of the space, about 2,400 square feet, and the farm advisor, the horticultural commissioner, and the justice of the peace together occupy the other third.

Forty-one distributing points for books have been established in the county. These include 12 community branches located in stores, post offices, farm homes, and clubhouses (3 with reading rooms), and 29 collections located in schools. Collections of 250 to 1,500 changeable books are sent to branches. Pictures are sent, and phonograph records for use at public meetings. Most branch quarters are provided locally, and the custodians, who are usually postmasters, storekeepers, or farmer's wives, receive from \$5 to \$25 monthly from the county.

All the 35 public schools in the county are furnished supplementary material, from 100 to 1,000 books each, with maps, globes, charts, music records, desk and wall pictures, stereographs, etc., selected by the teacher. Mailing expense is carried by the county library. If there is no community branch at the place, a set of 20 library books for adults, changeable monthly, is placed in charge of the teacher, with transportation at county-library expense. For individual farmers who are distant from branches and schools, packages of one to four books are mailed when requested. A single book is mailed to anyone on special request. Program material, statistical data, and speakers are furnished to study clubs, farm bureaus, and other organizations. The library moving-picture machine is also loaned. All county people may use the main library direct.

To encourage good reading by children, the county librarian gives lectures and demonstrations as to the use of library books in schools

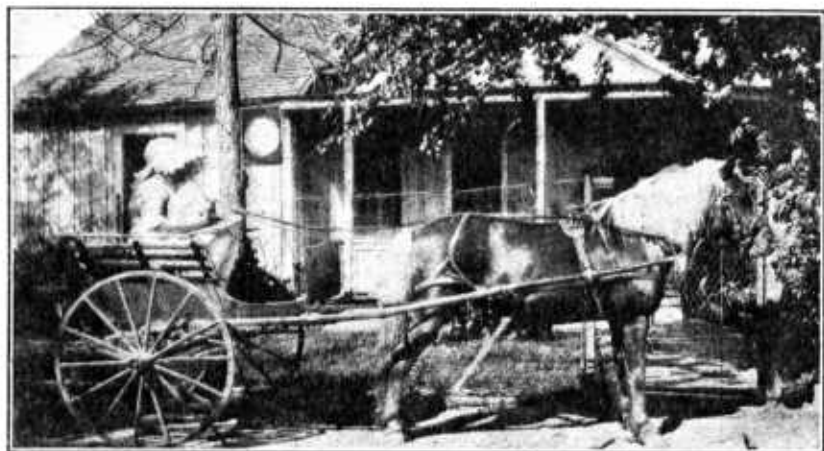


FIG. 8.—This Italian farm girl secures Americanization books for the family from the Orchard Library Station of the San Joaquin County (Calif.) Free Library located in this farm home

and issues certificates to pupils who have read six books a year based on a county list. Story-telling hours for children are held once a month in each school by the county librarian, and children's book week is celebrated annually in every library.

For the year ended June 30, 1926, there were 37,844 bound volumes in the library and 4,923 borrowers, an increase of 881 borrowers during the year. Over 2,000 borrowers are from the country. During the year 66,290 books and periodicals were circulated from the library and branches, an increase of 12,000. Community-branch circulation was 27,498. Besides this circulation, the schools used 14,173 supplementary books, bringing the total to over 80,000. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-five shipments were made to and received from the 41 distributing points by the main library. The packages contained 16,731 items, composed of books, maps, charts, music records, etc. The county furnishes the librarian with an automobile for use three days a week, and 221 visits were made to branches and schools during that year, at which time books were delivered and

other books were returned. Advice and assistance were given to branch librarians and patrons.

The following is a statement of the library material supplied by the library to the schools of Sutter County for the academic year ended June 30, 1926:

Supplementaries-----	14,173
Home reading-----	2,074
Maps-----	130
Music records-----	123
Magazines-----	190
Stereoscopes-----	7
Stereographs-----	2,071
Pictures-----	12
Globes-----	13
Encyclopedias, sets-----	12
Dictionaries, large-----	21
Charts-----	135
Total number of books in schools-----	16,391
Value of material supplied that year-----	\$14,149.16
Value of material that remained from the previous year-----	4,720.16
Total value of material used by schools that year-----	18,869.32
Amount of money turned over by school districts to county free-library fund for the year:	
Elementary-----	3,150.00
High-----	506.73
Total <sup>s</sup> -----	3,656.73

The above figures do not include books for outside reading or transportation charges.

*Financial statement of Sutter County, Calif., Library, July 1, 1925, to June 30, 1926*

Expenditures:	
Books-----	\$7,141.56
Maps-----	341.76
Periodicals-----	505.25
Pictures-----	4.47
Music-----	44.40
Binding-----	345.25
Printing-----	50.50
Supplies-----	244.86
Salaries (headquarters, including head librarian)-----	4,638.15
Salaries (branch librarians)-----	1,040.00
Furniture (headquarters)-----	322.00
Furniture (branches)-----	98.60
Heat for branches-----	4.00
Express, freight, postage-----	309.95
Telephone-----	53.65
Traveling expense (general)-----	5.00
Traveling expense (branches)-----	4.60
Miscellaneous-----	16.80
	15,170.80
Receipts:	
Unexpended balance-----	9,282.98
Local taxation (being 0.5 mill)-----	8,808.44
Salary fund-----	1,833.15

<sup>s</sup> According to State law, each school library is allowed not to exceed \$50 yearly. This county allows \$50.

## Receipts—Continued.

Schools (high).....	\$375. 55
Schools (elementary).....	3, 450. 00
Fines and lost books.....	152. 10
Refund.....	19. 20
Total receipts.....	23, 921. 42
Total expenditures.....	15, 170. 80
Balance .....	8, 750. 62

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SCHOOL SERVICE

Receipts .....	\$6, 925. 31
Balance June 30, 1925.....	\$3, 099. 76
Apportionment (elementary).....	3, 450. 00
Apportionment (high).....	375. 55
Total.....	6, 925. 31
Expenditures .....	3, 740. 80
Books (supplementaries).....	3, 036. 12
Maps.....	341. 76
Periodicals.....	243. 50
Pictures.....	4. 47
Music.....	44. 40
Teachers' library.....	52. 15
Miscellaneous.....	18. 40
Total.....	3, 740. 80
Balance .....	3, 184. 51

The assessed valuation of the county, taxable for county purposes, is \$18,084,190.

The county librarian is appointed by the county supervisors on certification of qualification by the State board of library examiners, and she has three assistants. The library is under the general supervision of the county supervisors, but no library board stands between librarian and supervisors; this gives the librarian much responsibility. The county farm advisor cooperates with the librarian in obtaining technical information and general reading for farm people.

*Live Oak community branch library.*—The Live Oak community branch library is located in a village of 289 population in a rice-growing territory 12 miles from Yuba City. It has a library-serving radius of 4 miles. (Fig. 9.) The statistics for 1926 were as follows: Books, 2,000; borrowers, 563 (the majority were farmers); circulation, 7,761. The library is open three afternoons and evenings weekly. The quarters are supplied by the community, but the librarian's salary (\$25 monthly) and the furniture in the library are supplied by the county. The records were well kept. The branch librarian makes monthly reports to the county librarian. The building is the property of the women's club; it cost \$5,000 and was financed by fairs and entertainments. It is used in general for community affairs, but two rooms are set aside for the use of the library. A club woman is librarian. The school appropriation is \$350 a year, and the value of supplementary material received for the school is \$1,637.58.

The county library makes its available material known to those who need it in many ways. One is its monthly mimeographed publication called "Library Chat." This publication, which contains book reviews and other notes, goes to every branch and school

librarian. Other devices include an annual display of new children's books; new book lists and reviews made public each week for which newspaper reporters call; special articles furnished to newspapers; library exhibits shown at county fairs, farm bureau picnics, stores, and in the main library; talks given at schools and at farm bureau and other meetings; book reviews given before clubs; organization of "reading with a purpose" courses; and visits through the county made by the librarian and her assistants.

The following letters indicate the value of library service to the schools:

During the three years that I have acted as principal of the Live Oak Grammar School we have made many requests of the county library. All of them have been filled. The service has been prompt. We have been liberal about expressing our needs. We have asked for and we have received many things that we could not have afforded to purchase for ourselves if the expenditure of our part of the library fund had been under our own control. By a careful and systematic plan of shifting the supplementary books from one



FIG. 9.—Live Oak rural branch of the Sutter County (Calif.) Library

school to another in the county a great deal of money is saved; for in this way not nearly as many copies of each book are required to equip schools, yet every school is assured of having the correct number when they are needed. (Signed) George W. Fellows, Principal, Live Oak Grammar School.

May I express appreciation of the splendid work the county libraries are doing? I have been surprised to find in many instances that the service rendered by the county libraries to the various districts has brought a return to the cooperating districts more than six times greater than the return that could have been secured if the library fund had been expended by the individual districts. (Signed) Will C. Wood, Superintendent of Public Instruction (State).

The following is a reply by the Sutter County board of supervisors to the request of the supervisors of another county as to the success of Sutter County Library:

The county free library has filled a long felt want in this county, and has reached out into every portion of the country and given a thorough and efficient service to the whole county. In the opinion of the board no one thing that this board has done has contributed more to the welfare and education of this

county than has the county free library, and we believe that its cost to the county is far out-weighed by the benefit that it has done to the county as a whole. By order of the Board of Supervisors, F. H. Graves, Chairman.

MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY, FREEHOLD, N. J.

Strongly supported by the county board of agriculture, the grange, and the county agent, the Monmouth County Library was established in 1923 by the county board of freeholders after a favorable majority vote of the people of the county. It serves approximately 51,000 people, according to the 1920 census. Eleven towns and one township, which support local public libraries, have not as yet elected to enter the county library system, as permitted by the county library law. There are branches of the county library in five towns which have libraries of their own; thus several towns pay two library taxes through choice. A tax rate of 0.2 mill was voted which provided \$20,770 in 1926 for maintenance of the library; \$1,280 was also received from the State based on service to schools; \$12,341.71 was expended for books and \$9,098.31 for salaries.

The library not only lends books from the main library direct to country people but also lends through 135 local distributing centers called library stations, 24 of which were established in 1926. These library stations are located as follows: 12 in stores; 24 in homes (mostly homes of farmers); 5 in existing libraries; 3 in post offices; 8 in borough halls; 1 in a chapel; 1 in a road stand; 1 in a parish house; 1 in a women's clubhouse; 2 in Young Men's Christian Association buildings; 5 in grange halls; 2 in community houses; 2 in churches; 1 in a summer camp; 1 in a fire-engine house; 2 in high-school libraries; 18 in schools circulating books to adults and children; and 46 in schools circulating books to children. Farm and club women, grange officials, storekeepers, postmasters, borough officials, ministers, and teachers serve as local custodians or librarians. From 50 to 1,000 books are kept at the stations, changeable at the bimonthly visit of the county librarian or more frequently by mail.

The main library, located in the courthouse, had 36,557 books on its records in 1926, a gain of 6,501 during the year. About 3,000 books are kept in the main library; the rest are in circulation to individuals or at country library stations or in transport from station to station, the object being to have the books where needed when needed. The 135 stations and the central library had an estimated circulation of 411,268 books. The number of books loaned to individuals from the local stations exceeded the number loaned the previous year by over 10,000. The main library and the stations have 9,847 registered borrowers.

The library has a book automobile made from the chassis of a 1-ton truck, with a specially constructed inclosed body, having shelves which hold 800 books and boxes for phonograph records and for pictures. The librarian uses this in transferring books from the library to country stations and return, covering each station at least once every two months by one of 25 automobile routes on each of which are from two to six stations. Books exchanged at the stations are selected by the local custodian with the advice of the county librarian. The car made 515 deliveries of 35,183 books to stations in 1925. In addition, 1,944 mail shipments of 4,993 books were made

to stations on rush requests, and 451 books were mailed on request to persons far from stations. Nine thousand and fifty-seven books were borrowed by country people direct from the main library. Phonograph records and pictures are circulated widely. All schools receive reference books from the main library, the total number used being 5,517. To fill requests for books not in stock, 539 books were borrowed from other libraries in the State.

The library is under the supervision of a county library commission of five members appointed by the county board of freeholders. The commission appoints the librarian and the five assistants, the latter on the recommendation of the librarian. Office work is performed largely by the assistants, the librarian being generally in the field transporting books, conducting story hours for children, or consulting and advising station custodians on book needs and other community matters. Each station has its own library board. Library quarters are furnished and incidental expenses are provided for locally.

To acquaint the people of the county with the book service offered by the library the following methods are used: The librarian has joined the grange in order to have direct contact with farmers and to learn their needs. Library talks are given at meetings of the grange, the Young Men's Christian Association, women's clubs, schools, and other organizations. Newspapers are supplied with articles on library availability, with lists of new books, lists of special books for special purposes, etc. Effective use is made of the book automobile with its conspicuous sign, "County Library." Special-request deliveries are made to remote places. "People see, stare, ask questions, borrow books."

Library exhibits are made especially at the annual five-day county farm bureau meeting. The exhibit usually consists of agricultural books, books for farm women and children, maps showing the location of library stations, charts, etc. Book lists are distributed, and talks are made on the use of the library. Effective use is made of the library camera. Children's book week is celebrated. Cooperation is maintained with other agencies including work with the county health office, the parent-teacher association, the Boy Scouts of America, the Young Men's Christian Association, the county board of agriculture, the county social service organization, school boards, women's clubs, mission-study classes, the grange, the farm bureau, churches, and schools. The county agent is an effective instrumentality in advertising the library, for he makes known to the librarian the particular farm books that are needed and fills requests of farmers for delivery of particular books.

The library recognizes its mission to farm people, and particular efforts are made to serve them. When a farmer requested a trade book which was not in the library, requests were made by the librarian to six other libraries, to the State library, and to a publisher without success. Finally the secretary of the State library commission borrowed a private copy and sent it. A farm boy with little chance for schooling was loaned a book on stationary engineering. He studied it during the winter, passed an examination for stationary engineer, and secured a good position. A sheep herder who

borrowed a book on animal diseases when his sheep became sick saved his sheep, while other flocks perished. When the potato crop failed and diversification became necessary the library was ready with truck-garden, fruit, dairy, and poultry books which were greatly appreciated. Not only trade books but the classics and modern fiction are in demand by farm people. Western stories are especially popular. Opposition to the establishment of a county library was voiced by some farmers on the theory that books would never reach the farmers, but these farmers are now among the most frequent users of the library.

*Tinton Falls Library Station.*—There are about 40 families in the farm community of Tinton Falls, 14 miles from Freehold, but there is no post office. A library of 200 volumes is maintained in a farm home with the housekeeper as custodian. Books are changed bi-monthly by the book automobile. The library is open two days a week, but borrowers come at all times. About 40 books are circulated every month; each loan is for 28 days, and the loan can then be renewed, but several people read each book taken out. Registered borrowers in 1926 numbered 84. The county library sent 435 books in 1926 in 6 shipments, and 9 were mailed at special request. The school also received 60 books.

COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY, GAINESVILLE, TEX.

A Cooke County farm woman who was managing her own farm is credited with responsibility for the Texas law which permits counties to establish libraries. A number of successful county libraries are now functioning under this law. She became librarian of the Gainesville Public Library and outlined the plans for the library building given the city by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. She went to California at her own expense to study the county-library system in successful operation and was responsible for the fact that Cooke County established a county library. After it was established she was responsible for merging the Gainesville Public Library with it. She never forgot her farm origin, and her actions were based on rural needs as she had experienced them. As she stated: "My country breeding and love for books received a severe shock when I found there was no legal way in which rural people could organize and support a public library for themselves."

Soon after becoming county librarian she established, on request, 25 community branch libraries and 54 school station libraries, which were the first public libraries in the county outside the county seat. The first branch was established in the isolated community where she was born, 20 miles from Gainesville. During one year 2,500 books were circulated to 199 readers in this community which had never cast more than 90 votes in an election.

The county free library was established by the commissioner's court on the signed petition of 1,361 voters outside of Gainesville—a majority of such voters. As the county established a separate library instead of contracting for county service from the Gainesville Public Library, the latter institution was merged with the county library by the city council, becoming the central office of the county library and a branch of that institution. A simple contract was signed to protect the rights of both parties.

The Carnegie building, all city library property, and the \$1,500 maintenance guarantee, made to secure the Carnegie building, were turned over to the county. The county agreed to spend immediately \$1,000 for books and at least \$50 monthly thereafter, and to pay the librarian's salary. Upon the termination of the contract, all city property and one-third of all books purchased subsequent to the contract were to revert to the city. The total property has an estimated value of \$37,772. The contract has been beneficial to both parties, but the greatest benefit is claimed to be that of learning the advantages of town and country cooperation and of equal service to all, and the realization by country people that the town is willing to venture and share with them.

Cooke County, an agricultural county joining Oklahoma, has an area of 902 square miles and a population of 25,667, the Gainesville population being 8,648. The library was opened in January, 1921, and the first branch was opened in March, 1921. The county gives \$3,500 and the city \$1,500 for library support. The library is controlled by the commissioner's court and managed by the county librarian, with one full-time and one part-time assistant.

According to the 1925 report there were 13,044 books, 3,917 pamphlets, and 184 periodicals in the library. The number of books in branches at the beginning of the year was 4,082; sent to branches 3,388, returned 2,280; books loaned to branches, 7,470. Central-library circulation of books, periodicals, bulletins, etc., was 25,554; branches, 17,930; schools, 4,106; the total county circulation was 47,590.

The circulation gain was 1,002 for the main library; 1,010 for the branches, and 2,023 for the schools. There were 1,363 books sent to school stations, and the school-station circulation was 4,106. There were 2,863 borrower's cards in the main library and 2,448 in the branches, not including schools. Each rural borrower's card represents several readers. During the year 65 visits were made to branches and 18 to schools. Professional visits of teachers to the main library numbered 268. Branches are located in homes, stores, etc., the community furnishing the quarters and custodians. Books are transported to and from branches voluntarily by persons who are going back and forth, and by the county librarian who goes in her own car five or six days each month, the county allowing \$120 for traveling expenses. Circulation statistics for the branches are as follows:

*Bloomfield*.—Books sent from main library 78, returned 39, on hand 166; circulation 568; new readers 0, total readers 70; population<sup>4</sup> 47.

*Butcher*.—Books sent 79, returned 39, on hand 199; circulation 544; new readers 12, total 91; population 40.

*Callisburg*.—Books sent 135, returned 80, on hand 201; circulation 1022; new readers 32, total 258; population 110.

*Concord*.—Books sent 169, returned 134, on hand 179; circulation 1449; new readers 42, total 148.

*Delaware*.—Books sent 76, returned 30, on hand 183; circulation 556; new readers 6, total 58.

*Dexter*.—Books sent 95, returned 25, on hand 221; circulation 1611; new readers 17, total 135; population 317.

*Dye*.—Books sent 271, returned 287, on hand 43; circulation 603; new readers 0, total 59.

<sup>4</sup>It has not been possible to determine the population in those cases in which the population is not given here.

*Era*.—Books sent 190, returned 126, on hand 267; circulation 790; new readers 21, total 206; population 263.

*Hemming*.—Books sent 72, returned 75, on hand 151; circulation 284; new readers 0, total 98.

*Hood*.—Books sent 196, returned 104, on hand 230; circulation 574; new readers 37, total 219; population 265.

*Hayes*.—Books sent 32, returned 51, on hand 122; circulation 266; new readers 12, total 82.

*Lemons*.—Books sent 134, returned 0, on hand 134; circulation 187; readers 37.

*Lindsay*.—Books sent 27, returned 46, on hand 241; circulation 343; new readers 0, total 79; population 140.

*Maryville*.—Books sent 175, returned 189, on hand 169; circulation 487; new readers 41, total 174; population 162.

*Mossville*.—Books sent 171, returned 21, on hand 160; circulation 367; new readers 9, total 73; population 42.

*Myra*.—Books sent 271, returned 209, on hand 271; circulation 1877; new readers 26, total 251; population 417.

*Negro*.—Books sent 116, returned 1, on hand 298; circulation 1210; new readers 113, total 157.

*Rosston*.—Books sent 10, returned 0, on hand 173; circulation 205; new readers 0, total 137; population 330.

*Salem*.—Books sent 192, returned 186, on hand 150; circulation 551; new readers 7, total 99.

*Sivells Bend*.—Books sent 165, returned 160, on hand 308; circulation 1626; new readers 16, total 245; population 79.

*Tipton*.—Books sent 91, returned 62, on hand 91; circulation 243; new readers 18, total 18.

*Tyler's Bluff*.—Books sent 64, returned 51, on hand 93; circulation 238; new readers 0, total 58.

*Valley View*.—Books sent 411, returned 45, on hand 355; circulation 826; new readers 56, total 553; population 762.

*Warren's Bend*.—Books sent 62, returned 110, on hand 99; circulation 144; new readers 2, total 69.

*Woodbine*.—Books sent 132, returned 17, on hand 229; circulation 1072; new readers 21, total 226; population 113.

Total financial receipts of the county library for the year were \$5,268; expenses, \$5,180.42. The county tax valuation is \$16,350,000.

The main library building, located in the heart of the city, is of brick and has one story and a basement. It includes an auditorium, a clubroom, and a museum. The material for the museum was collected by the librarian and consists of 13 shelves of fossils, Indian relics, early implements and arms, local history books, and manuscripts—a total of 262 articles.

County people are kept in touch with what the library has that is of use to them by talks made by the librarian to clubs and schools (five or six each month), by monthly reports, and by new book lists in country newspapers; by conversation with the county librarian during official visits; and by library exhibits at State, county, and local fairs.

*Valley View branch library*.—A farm girl who has completed the local two-year high-school course has been in charge of the Valley View branch library of 400 volumes, which is located 12 miles from Gainesville, during the five years of its existence. The library occupies a prominent place on the balcony of a general store and is open two afternoons a week. The county librarian brings books every few months, and special-request books arrive by mail. The class of books used is similar to those of any standard small library, but many school reference books are always included and are much used. Over 500 people, half of them farmers, registered as bor-

rowers in 1925. Citizens traveling to the county seat exchange the much-read books. The women's improvement club, which includes farm women, has charge of the library and is responsible for the 50-cent per afternoon salary of the librarian, which is about the only library expense.

Citizens, including farmers, expressed great satisfaction at having a free library of up-to-date changing books, especially since without the county library they would be 12 miles from any library.

As to the success of the county library the county superintendent of schools said:

It is working well for the county and is especially helpful to the schools. According to law all State-aid schools must furnish \$10 worth of fresh books per room per year. We get the books from the county and receive more and better books. We know the county system is a good system.

JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARY, MEDFORD, OREG.

"The county library brings books to the boy on the farm." This slogan was responsible for the establishment of the Jackson County Library. With a side reference to Abraham Lincoln the slogan carried the day in the petition to the county court in the campaign of the county people for equality of library privileges.

Two petitions were circulated, one for taxpayers and one for non-taxpaying voters. Both were simple and advocated 0.2 mill tax for maintenance and included the actual amounts that the tax would raise on assessments of \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000, respectively. The county court voted the 0.2 mill tax, \$5,000, and entered into a contract with the existing Medford Public Library to extend its service to rural people by the purchase of additional books, by opening its doors to country people, and by the establishment of rural branch and school station libraries.

The county has an area of 2,794 square miles and a population of 20,405. The library is not located at the county seat town which is smaller and less accessible than Medford, which has a population of 5,736. Ashland, with a population of 4,283, located 16 miles from Medford, remains outside the county-library system in accordance with the State county-library law which permits cities of over 4,000 population that give over \$2,000 annual support to an existing library to so elect. (Fig. 10.)

Throughout the county there have been established 9 branch libraries, 26 deposit stations, and 80 book collections in schools. Branch libraries are permanent in nature. Some of these towns had had small libraries previously and have local library boards. Library headquarters and small stipends for librarians are provided locally, usually by women's clubs from receipts from entertainments. The county pays \$5 per month to some of the librarians to encourage responsibility. From 400 to 500 books, changeable yearly or sooner if requested, are sent to these branches. The 20 library stations are all in farm homes for community use. Fifty books are sent to each, changeable trimonthly. Books for children are sent to the 80 schools, 25 books at a time, changeable trimonthly or oftener if wished. Twice a week a trained assistant goes to one of these schools, each in turn, to instruct teachers and children in the care and use of books and to hold story hours to encourage good reading. Tabulations for

36 schools revealed that 5,514 books had been read in one year. *Black Beauty* had been the most popular book.

All mail shipments of books are paid for by the county library. Direct mail service of books also is given to any resident of the county upon request; the county library pays the postage.

On January 1, 1927, there were in the library 12,590 books owned by the city and 8,324 owned by the county, an increase during the year of 974 and 1,783, respectively. Newspapers and magazines in the library totaled, respectively, 172 and 134. In 1926 the central library reported a circulation of 87,423 books, the branches 43,327, stations 2,548, and schools, 7,306. The total reported circulation was 140,604. Children's books circulated from the central library totaled 28,452. Special books borrowed from the State library and circu-



FIG. 10.—Branch of the Jackson County (Oreg.) Free Library, located at Talent; population, 278

lated numbered 937. Per capita circulation in Medford (1926 population estimate) was 9.9 books; circulation per capita outside Medford and Ashland was 3 books; county circulation, including circulation in Medford, 6.7 books. Thirty-eight per cent of the people outside of Medford and Ashland are reported to be borrowers of county library books. The number of borrowers' cards in force January 1, 1927, was as follows: City, 5,181; county, 1,437; total, 6,618.

The library has a good collection of public documents, including many farmers' bulletins. These are well arranged by subjects in numerical order. Much effort is exerted by the librarian and the county agent to inform farmers of publications available for particular needs and to extend their use. When questioned concerning

the attitude of numerous librarians who have said that, on account of difficulty of handling bulletins, they preferred to let the county agent take care of agricultural bulletins, the librarian replied that while she wanted the assistance of the county agent, she saw in such work a great field for usefulness open to the library, that she recognized her duty, and that she welcomed the opportunity to perform it.

*Financial statement of Jackson County (Oreg.) Free Library, January 1, 1926, to December 31, 1926*

	City funds	County funds
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Balance Jan. 1, 1926-----	\$3, 445. 83	<sup>s</sup> \$4, 418. 01
Tax receipts-----	7, 681. 61	5, 236. 50
Desk receipts-----	696. 04	-----
<b>Total</b> -----	<b>11, 823. 48</b>	<b>9, 654. 51</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Books-----	1, 857. 25	2, 581. 49
Periodicals and indexes-----	345. 35	368. 53
Salaries-----	3, 489. 70	3, 045. 79
Janitor-----	511. 40	-----
Heat-----	120. 00	-----
Light-----	110. 84	-----
Water-----	39. 00	-----
Telephone-----	64. 25	-----
Repairs and improvements-----	647. 96	-----
Furniture and fixtures-----	389. 99	-----
Insurance-----	145. 87	-----
Binding-----	227. 55	201. 15
Printing and supplies-----	313. 85	159. 22
Shipping supplies-----	-----	2. 20
Postage, freight, express-----	64. 03	58. 39
Current expense-----	210. 00	350. 00
<b>Total</b> -----	<b>8, 537. 04</b>	<b>6, 766. 77</b>
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1926-----	3, 286. 44	2, 887. 74

Cost per capita in Medford, \$0.83; in county, including Medford, \$0.24.

Medford Public Library, with which the county contracts for service, is governed by a library board appointed by the mayor. The county superintendent is an ex officio member. It is administered by a staff of six, consisting of the librarian and the first assistant librarian (trained), two clerks, a stenographer, and a part-time cataloguer. One-half of the salaries of the two trained librarians and one clerk, and all of the salaries of the stenographer and the part-time cataloguer, are paid by the county. The remainder of these salaries and the wages of a page and a janitor are paid by the city.

The library building was provided for the city by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. It is located in the heart of the city on extensive improved grounds furnished by the city. (See fig. 1, p. 2.)

Constant efforts are made by the librarians to keep in touch with the book needs of the country people and to advise them of available assistance. Methods used include: (1) Library exhibits at all fairs; (2) publication in county papers of book news and items of special interest; (3) distributing new book lists over the country; (4) talks

<sup>s</sup> Taxes are not paid until Apr. 1, which accounts for Jan. 1 balance from previous year.

given at club meetings; (5) annual celebration of children's book week, including extensive advertisement by means of book posters; and (6) publication and distribution to rural people and county branches of special library pamphlets.

One of these pamphlets entitled "Procedure for Branch Librarians," in addition to instruction in technical details, emphasizes the desirability of neatness, attractiveness, good order, and discipline in branches and closes with a call to all librarians to familiarize themselves with the contents of books, to anticipate the needs of borrowers, and to offer each something that will give pleasure, broaden experience, or solve difficulties.

*Central Point Branch Library.*—The village of Central Point has a population of 582 and is situated in an orchard district 5 miles from Medford. It had never had a library previous to the establishment of the branch in 1920. There are 400 county books, and 250 books have been donated locally. Fifty county books are changed each month, the branch paying expenses one way. Borrowers in 1925 numbered 502. The circulation was 6,500 books. The library was open two afternoons and evenings weekly. The librarian received \$10 per month salary, \$5 furnished by the county and the remainder by local organizations, including a farm women's club. The village government furnished only the library room, fuel, and lights. The people seemed well satisfied with the library service, especially considering that it had no financial support from the town government. The librarian believed that without this branch the people would not have had a library.

The following is a digest of the contract between the county of Jackson, Oreg., and the library board of Medford, Jackson County, Oreg.:

\* \* \* Whereas, the County Court of Jackson County, Oregon, has levied a tax of two-tenths of a mill for library purposes and deems it advisable to contract with the Public Library of Medford, Oregon, for the use \* \* \* by the Library Board of said library fund to the purposes specified in Chapter 357 of the General Laws of Oregon for 1919: \* \* \* The Library Board deems it advisable to extend the use of the library of Medford to the residents of Jackson County \* \* \* and for that purpose \* \* \* to contract with the County of Jackson for the use by the Library Board of the library fund created by the tax levied by the County Court of Jackson County. \* \* \* It is \* \* \* agreed \* \* \* that the City of Medford shall maintain a library building, and the library board shall operate \* \* \* the Public Library of Medford for the free use of the inhabitants of the County of Jackson; saving and excepting as to such cities as shall elect not to come under the provisions of said Act \* \* \* That the County shall pay by warrant, as provided in \* \* \* properly certified bills of the Library Board to the full amount of the moneys in the library fund of said County, provided however, that such payments shall be made only for books and periodicals which become the property of the County, and the services of a trained librarian and the necessary assistants for County service, and for necessary transportation and traveling expenses, including postage and telephone, in maintaining the County system \* \* \* That the Library Board agrees to establish a system of branches, deposit stations, and travelling libraries, and individual service, upon request, with free transportation, except within incorporated cities where a deposit of books is maintained, and to provide books and supervision in such communities of the County outside the City of Medford as will agree to maintain any such branch, deposit station, or travelling library \* \* \* That all books belonging to the Public Library of Medford, Oregon, shall be \* \* \* free to all residents of the County to be used for lending and deposit in branch libraries and other libraries participating in the County Library service, on the same terms provided for books bought with County funds. That any city library

within the County of Jackson, State of Oregon, already established shall, upon request, be furnished with a deposit of books proportionate to the share of such County library tax paid by such city \* \* \* or with any larger deposit as shall be equitable and just, as may be agreed between the County Court and Library Board. The Library Board shall on or before the first day of January of each year submit upon request of either body a report to the County Court of Jackson County, Oregon, and to the Trustees of the State Library, stating the condition of their trust; the various sums of money received from the library funds and all other sources.

COAHOMA COUNTY LIBRARY, CLARKSDALE, MISS.

An old tenant-farm woman came into the library at Clarksdale, Miss., with a dozen chickens to sell, thinking the library was a hotel. She was a widow who was making a scanty living for herself and four children by working in the fields on a small farm 10 miles out. One child, home from school because of sickness, had asked her to buy a book. The mother didn't know what a library was, but had intended to buy the book at a store if there should be any money left after buying necessities. The librarian believed that library books should be in the hands of those who needed them. The result was that the surprised old farm woman went home with a half dozen books and, shortly after, a library station was established near her farm, to which the county librarian came once a month in the library book automobile bringing new books, taking back used ones, and consulting and advising with the farm people about their book and other needs.

The Clarksdale Public Library began in 1914, when the Carnegie Corporation of New York gave \$10,000 for a building, the city of Clarksdale (population 7,552) agreeing to furnish the site and \$1,000 yearly for maintenance. The site cost \$10,000. Many farmers, the women's club, and others, gave books to the library which was opened to all the people of the county. The county department was established in 1917 in accordance with a special State law for this county which allowed it to give \$500 for books for the Clarksdale library, which sum was given for two years by the county supervisors. A later State law permitted \$3,000, which was given, and in 1926 another special law permitted \$7,500 for maintenance of the Clarksdale Library. The county voted \$4,000 for 1927. (Fig. 11.)

Library extension service for this county of 530 square miles area and 41,511 population really began in 1922 when country teachers came into take out packages of books for country people, and 2,936 books were circulated that year. In 1923 the library bought an old automobile from the city, reconstructed it as a book automobile, and in September began carrying books to county library branches, school stations, and direct to people. For the last four months of 1923, 3,542 books were carried; in 1924, 10,457, and in 1925, 13,050. In 1926 a new book automobile was placed in use. A touring car chassis was bought and reconstructed, and shelving was added for 600 books. The total cost was \$603. The reconstruction work was done by the manual-training class of the county colored agricultural school. This book automobile is in charge of the librarian for county work who carries books to some of the country stations and schools three days each week. The cost of operating the truck

in 1924 was \$164.44. Supplementary books, maps, magazines, etc., are furnished to all schools, and nonschool books for pupils or parents are supplied to some of them.

There are over 40,000 volumes in the library. The total number of books issued from the main library in 1926 was 56,263. The circulation from county stations was 18,815, an increase of 4,029 over that during the previous year. At the end of the year there were 3,360 books at county stations. During the year 12,080 books were sent to country stations by book automobile for circulation. Country patrons also took 12,500 books from the main library. There were 29 public library stations in the country in operation at the end of the year, located in stores, offices, community houses, and schools.

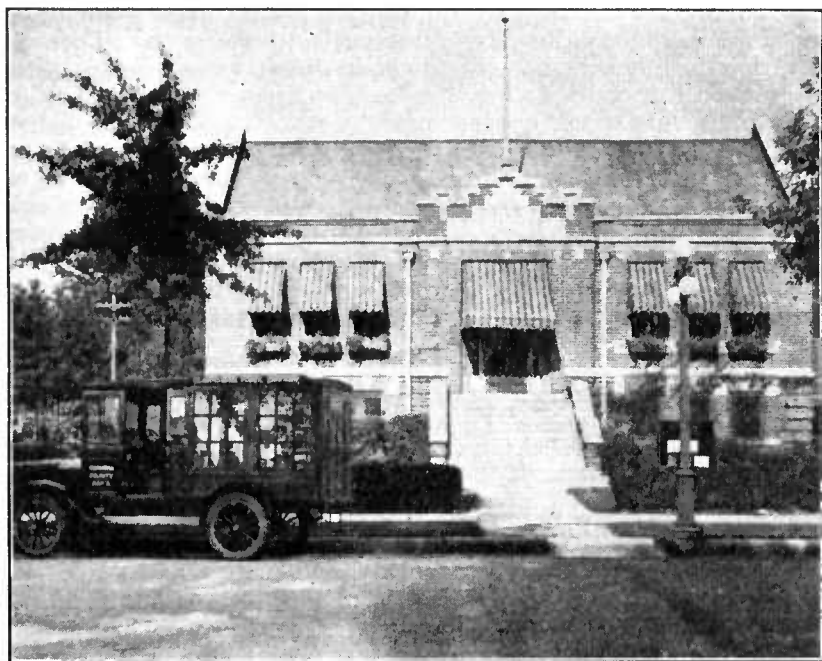


FIG. 11.—Coahoma County Library at Clarksdale, Miss. Book automobile ready for book-delivery trips to rural branches and stations

*Financial report of the Coahoma County (Miss.) Library for the year 1926*

Receipts:

Amount on hand Jan. 1, 1926.....	\$17. 00
City appropriation .....	7, 500. 00
County appropriation.....	3, 000. 00
Sale of books.....	189. 12
Fines, rentals, books lost.....	848. 07
	<hr/>
	\$11, 554. 19

Expenditures:

Binding .....	503. 39
Supplies.....	243. 02
Salaries and substitutes.....	5, 517. 88
Extra wages, yard work, etc.....	331. 80
Library dues, printing, and publicity.....	130. 10
Postage, express, freight.....	243. 23

## Expenditures—Continued.

Books, magazines, and newspapers.....	\$3, 819. 72
Refund on nonresident deposits.....	14. 15
County extension, upkeep of truck.....	124. 92
Repairs, improvements, library furniture.....	313. 28
	<hr/>
	\$11, 241. 49

Balance ..... 312. 70

The Clarksdale Public Library is governed by a board of five trustees who are appointed by the city commissioner. Two trustees live outside the city, and one is a farmer. The board appoints the librarian, who has three assistants, one in charge of county work. The present law permits the county to pay not only for books but for extension service.

The library has 600 selected Government documents, and efforts are made to keep them available to farmers, especially Farmers' Bulletins. They are listed in a card catalogue by subject headings. Pamphlets are filed in envelopes under a class number in a file case. Publicity is given to them by including them in book lists sent to newspapers or to library stations.

Story hours for children are conducted frequently by the librarians in school and library stations, and children's book week is celebrated yearly at the main library, at schools, and at stations. The county superintendent of schools sends to the schools lists of books which he would like to have the children read, and the country librarian brings books out by the book automobile for this work. The agricultural school for colored people has made especial use of the library.

The service that the library can give to country people is given wide publicity by issuing lists of new books and books on special subjects; by exhibiting attractive book covers in schools and stations; by decorating schoolrooms and stations with book posters; by furnishing newspapers with weekly articles concerning the library; by posting signs at library stations reading, "Public library, free service, books here"; by carrying signs on the book automobile which read, "County library department—Who wants? Let us know"; by giving library talks to farm organizations; by exhibiting books at fairs; by preparing reading courses and furnishing the books; and by cooperating with the county agent and the county superintendent of schools through providing new library material and going with them to rural meetings.

*Jonestown School station.*—The station library at the Jonestown School, 13 miles from Clarksdale, had, at the time visited, 200 supplementary books, changeable monthly, in charge of a teacher. There were 8 teachers and 146 pupils. The principal stated that the library was almost invaluable, as the books were used daily by most of the teachers and pupils. Teachers requisitioned books as needed. If pupils went to the town library they would not know what books to select. Pupils take home books by standard writers of the past and the present, and if the county library did not send such books the children would never read them.

*Jonestown community station.*—The community-station library at Jonestown of 400 books for adults, changeable monthly, is in the telephone office in a town of 646 population and is in charge of

the operator who serves as librarian without pay. During school vacations she also has the children's books. The telephone office is used as a rest room. Cotton farming is the chief occupation of the people. The librarian stated that the library was of great value to the people, that there was a large book circulation, and that the semimonthly visits of the county department librarian in the book automobile were of great value on account of the exchange of books and the advice and help the librarian gave regarding books and other community affairs.

RUSK COUNTY LIBRARY, LADYSMITH, WIS.

About 30 years ago the redemption of the cut-over region of which Rusk County is a part, was in full force, which was a few years after the great forest had been denuded of its timber. Settlers came in, pulled the stumps, planted seed, built roads and towns, and now the 2,240 farm families of Rusk County are served with 102 book collections in schools, 24 traveling libraries, 3 community branches, and 1 collection in an established rural library, all the books coming from the county library by mail or by direct delivery. Though only 34 per cent of the county is as yet in farms, rural people borrowed 18,481 library books in 1926. As the central library had 7,056 books, this was an average of 2.6 books to each borrower and was one-third of the 55,176 total circulation of the city and county library. In 1926 the population of the county was 16,403, the farm population was 10,297, and the area is 925 square miles.

The book collections in schools consisted of 15 books each, changeable monthly, placed in charge of teachers. These books enable local teachers and pupils in the State reading circles to do the required work in pedagogy and general literature for which professional and school credit is received. In 1926, 6,953 teachers and 213,971 young people were members of the two circles in the State. Each teacher member was required to read at least 3 selected books and each young person 5 or 6 selected books, each year.

Traveling libraries consist of changeable packages of books on general subjects for adults and children and are maintained in various places throughout the county.

The community branches are of a permanent nature, but they have several hundred changeable books of a general kind including fiction, informational literature, reference books, and farmers' bulletins. They are located in stores, in villages of from 150 to 500 population, and books are loaned by the grocer or merchant. These branches were established in 1926 in an attempt to get books closer to the people on the farms, and the county agent aided in starting them so that he could send farmers and farm boys to them for agricultural books and farmers' bulletins. The branches are open as long as the stores are, and the storekeepers receive a small compensation for the work.

The county library furnishes study-club material to five rural women's clubs for the club programs, which are kept on file in the library. Supplementary material, farmers' bulletins, etc., are sent out by direct mail.

*Financial statement of Ladysmith city and Rusk County (Wis.) library for the year ended December 31, 1926*

Receipts:		Payments:	
Balance-----		Books-----	\$669.98
City-----	\$3,500.00	Periodicals-----	128.98
County-----	1,250.00	Binding-----	357.17
County appropriation of \$2,000 made in November, 1926, from this used-----	440.05	Salaries, library service-----	2,830.75
Fines, lost books, re- serves-----	249.79	Salaries, janitor service-----	81.60
		Heat-----	331.37
		Light-----	86.96
		Permanent improvements-----	69.60
		Repairs-----	139.27
		Stationery and supplies-----	240.52
		Printing-----	6.25
		Postage, express, freight-----	172.91
		Insurance-----	87.00
		Other expenses-----	238.12
Total-----	5,439.84	Total-----	5,440.48

The 1925 county appropriation of \$1,250 was expended as follows: Books, \$750; postage and freight, \$100; county assistance, \$250; librarian's transportation, \$100; librarian's salary, \$50; total, \$1,250. The assessed valuation of the city of Ladysmith is \$3,872,626, and that of the whole county is \$19,033,925.

People are informed of the service which the library has to offer them by: (1) Frequent articles in county journals; (2) exhibits at county fairs including a sand table in which was pictured, through use of cardboard, the movement of books by automobile to branches, stations, and schools; (3) book displays at community fairs; (4) display map of county work at State fair; (5) welfare books placed on the county traveling clinic; (6) talks about books given by the librarian at all county teachers' institutes; and (7) cooperation established with the county superintendent of schools, county agent, and county nurse. A picture exhibit was sent to the Sesquicentennial Exposition at Philadelphia.

The Ladysmith town library was established for town people only, in 1906, in a storeroom in Ladysmith, the population of which is now 3,581. In 1907 it was removed to a new \$10,000 Carnegie building, for which the town gave the site and agreed to furnish \$1,000 annually for maintenance. The town gave \$2,000 yearly and is now giving \$3,500 yearly. Several years ago the county commissioners voted \$500 to the Ladysmith Library for the purchase of books. In return, country people were permitted to borrow books from the town library. Later the county gave \$800, and a few traveling libraries were sent out into the country. When the enlarged program for county service began in 1926, the county gave \$1,250 for the year. In November, 1926, it voted \$2,000 for 1927.

The county has a representative on the library board. The library is in charge of a trained librarian who has one full-time assistant and two part-time assistants. The library building has an auditorium which is used by the women's club, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls and for amateur plays, lectures, and other community events. The librarian makes automobile trips to the branches monthly and to the schools and traveling-library stations at least once a year. On these visits she delivers and returns books, gives advice and assistance to

librarians, and holds story hours for rural children. The county allowed \$124 for car expense in 1926.

The response of farm people to the library service may be gauged by the following statement made by the librarian:

We are only beginning, of course. I am still a little amazed when I drive up on a Saturday night to a confectionery-store building in the town of Bruce, for instance, to see a red sign in the widow which says, "This is a County Library Station;" and go into the store to find an ice-cream parlor full of overalled farmers, red-cheeked children, and mothers from the country who are interested in books as well as in candies and ice-cream cones. Books come alive in such places. There is no desk to come between a human being and the book he wants to read—only a counter, and back of it a girl whom they can call by her first name as they scrawl their names on an application blank and draw out their first books.

This library was established as part of a movement to bring the same social and educational advantages to the farmer that are enjoyed by the city dweller. To extend library service to farm people it is not necessary that a county be old, highly populous, or wealthy. With intellectual advancement keeping step from the beginning with material advancement the desired goal—a good kind of rural life—is soon reached.

#### H. LESLIE PERRY MEMORIAL LIBRARY, HENDERSON, N. C.

People of means who wish to contribute to the betterment of their own community are turning to the public library in increasing numbers. For a long time New England has been especially favored with such libraries. The county-library building of Elizabeth City County at Hampton, Va., was a gift of this character. In a number of instances where the county system prevails, local branch-library buildings have been financed in this way, and such libraries and buildings are also built as memorials.

Until such a memorial was erected in 1924, to the memory of a deceased local citizen the only library that the city of Henderson, N. C. (population 5,222), possessed was a small school library. The building and most of the books and furnishing were provided by the donors. Numerous clubs and individuals gave additional books and furniture.

The plans of the building were drawn by a library architect. The building has a large assembly room which is a general meeting place for various organizations of the town and is much used by farm people. The librarian uses it also for the children's story hour and for travel talks. The total cost of the donated property was \$40,000, including \$4,000 for books. It was dedicated for the use of the public as long as used for a library on condition that it be maintained. For this purpose the county board of commissioners vote \$1,000, the county board of education \$1,000, and the city council \$3,000 yearly. (Fig. 12.)

A certain amount of money is being set aside annually to establish a library for negroes. Meanwhile a branch for negroes is maintained in one of the schools. Collections of books which are changed monthly are kept in all of the eight consolidated schools in the county. Further county extension work is contemplated, as it was the wish of the donors to give something especially worth while for

county people. The library is open freely to all citizens of the county.

There are over 5,000 books in the library, and the circulation is 32,156. It is supervised by a board of 7 trustees, 2 appointed by the county commissioners, 2 by the county board of education, 2 by the town council, and 1 by the donors. The title to the library, is in this board. A trained librarian, who has two assistants, is in charge.

DEMONSTRATION COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE, GREENVILLE, S. C.

A few interested citizens of Greenville, with the help of the city librarian, are responsible for library extension in Greenville County, S. C., which began in 1924. It was hoped that a successful three-year demonstration would persuade the county to assume financial

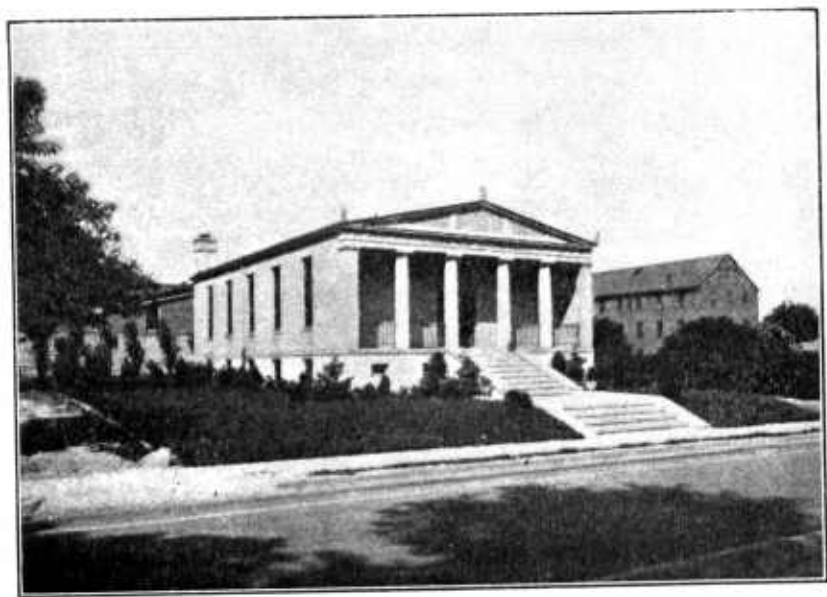


FIG. 12.—County library at Henderson, N. C. A memorial gift by a local resident

responsibility for its continuance. The county demonstration service carried books from the Greenville Public Library to about 30,000 rural people in an area of 761 square miles, including four rural villages of from 1,000 to 2,000 population. Starting with an old subscription library in the city as a nucleus, similar demonstration service had already been completed in the city of Greenville and in the adjoining school district composed largely of mill villages, the employees of which were formerly farm people. The city service is now financed by a 2-mill city tax, producing \$18,000. The school district appropriates \$5,000 annually for its service. The county demonstration service was financed by \$10,000 annual donations from the small interested group.

Of the \$10,000, \$5,000 went for books, \$3,000 for the service of two extension librarians, and \$2,000 for supplies and operating expenses, including upkeep of book automobile, garage, etc. The cen-

tral library is in rented quarters, since the value of service rather than buildings was one of the purposes of the demonstrations. The building may come later.

Rural book service was given to 2 branch libraries, where books were left as long as needed; to 8 stations for adults; and to 38 school stations, where books were changed bimonthly. When schools were closed direct book-automobile service was given to farm homes. Thirteen "lay-by" schools for adults were also supplied with books. The total circulation of books in 1925 for the three services was 205,000, of which the town circulation was one-half, the school district one-fourth, and the rural one-fourth. The first five months of 1926, the second year of rural service, showed a loan of 41,000 books to country people, an 87 per cent increase over the similar five months of the first year. The central library also was open freely to country people.



FIG. 13.—Country children selecting books from the Greenville County (S. C.) Library book automobile

Each service has its book automobile, which is an automobile reconstructed to carry 500 books. The county automobile is equipped with a large umbrella on a sliding roof rod at the rear, which when opened protects the users at farm homes or stations. (Fig. 13.)

On September 13, 1927, following a petition signed by one-fourth of the qualified voters outside of Greenville, an election was held to vote on the question of establishing county library service financed by the county. It was voted to levy a 1-mill county tax, which would bring in between \$18,000 and \$20,000 a year, and to contract with the Greenville Public Library for an extension of service to the county from that library. The money was to become available at once.

#### DIGEST OF SEVERAL COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES STUDIED

The essential facts regarding several other county libraries which have been studied are given as examples of what has been done in this direction.

*Camden County, Haddonfield, N. J.*—Established by popular vote, 1922, serves 56,889 people exclusive of Camden and three other cities; 24,000 volumes in library, including 14,793 in stations, in 1924; 160 branches and stations, 76 with monthly book-automobile service, and 84 school collections of 85 books each. One-fifth of a mill library tax gave \$10,124 in 1924; State gave \$1,460.

*Burlington County, Mount Holly, N. J.*—Established by popular vote, 1921; serves all the county (population, 81,770); 38,982 books in library in 1926; 135 branches and stations, including 45 rural-school collections; 17,654 books taken by book automobile to stations, 1926; 23,982 books in branches in 1925. One-fifth of a mill tax on assessed valuation of \$59,761,300 gave \$11,952.20 for library purposes in 1925; State grant, \$1,570.

*Madera County Library, Madera, Calif.*—Serves county population of 12,203 (census of 1920). Library building built, 1917; county funds, \$12,500; 73,052 books in library in 1925; 20 community branches, 52 school branches. (Fig. 14.) Circulation in 1925, branch libraries, 41,902; supplementary school books, 20,155. Library automobile is used. Farm bureau, through farm advisor, uses books in study classes and uses moving-picture machine. Six-tenths mill tax

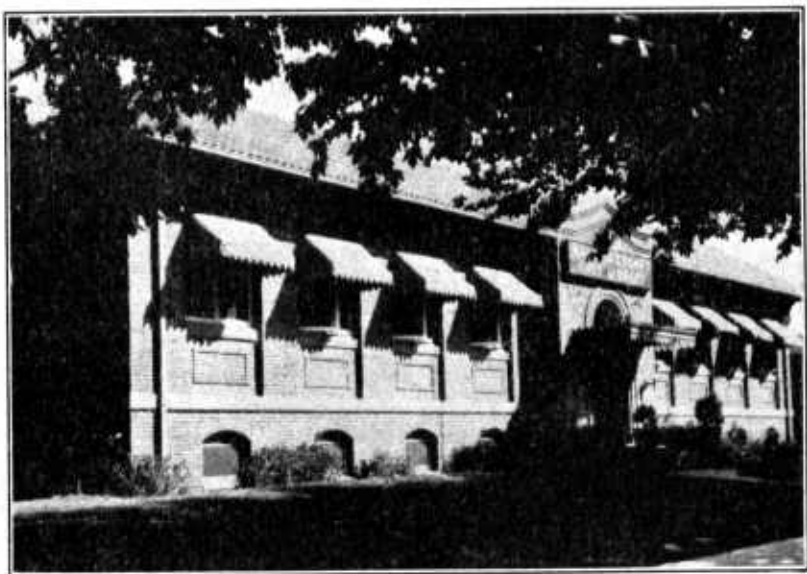


FIG. 14.—Madera County (Calif.) Free Library building. Erected by county at a cost of \$12,500. Electric sign on front

on taxable assessed valuation of \$22,874,162 brings \$13,724.50; schools give \$4,557; income from miscellaneous sources, \$3,463.83.

*Merced County Library, Merced, Calif.*—Nineteen community branches (13 with reading rooms) and 62 school branches. Serves the county (population, 24,579). In 1926 the library owned 94,940 books, 7,275 pamphlets, 4,181 pictures, 1,004 music records, 464 music sheets, 5,289 stercographs, 544 periodicals, 2 moving-picture machines, and 4 slide lanterns; 176,118 items circulated. In 1926 registered borrowers numbered 17,449; 1,880 shipments of 45,154 items from main office to branches in 1926; 45,000 books and items used in rural schools. Librarian has the use of a county automobile. County owns building. County erected three branch buildings at cost of \$5,500, \$10,000, and \$3,500. Eight-tenths mill tax on county taxable assessed valuation of \$32,612,022 gives \$25,501.47; schools give \$7,574.50; miscellaneous receipts, \$2,944.33, total \$36,020.30.

*Fresno County, Fresno, Calif.*—Serves county population of 123,845, excluding a school district. Area, 5,940 square miles. Community branches in 1926, 104, 59 with reading rooms; school branches, 161. Bound volumes, 344,968; miscellaneous items, 55,143. Has a Government-document depository collection of 24,790 documents. In 1926 made 5,284 shipments of 117,142 items to

branches. Owns two library-book automobiles. Visits to branches and schools numbered 1,547. Borrowers, 34,428. Eight-tenths mill tax on total \$152,064,762 valuation produced \$118,523.29; miscellaneous receipts, \$36,371.55; total, \$154,894.81.

*Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, Calif.*—Serves the county, exclusive of Los Angeles and 15 other towns. (Fig. 15.) Area, 3,583 square miles. Estimated 1926 population served, 408,936. In that year the library owned 530,586 bound volumes; other items, 6,225. Total number loaned, 1,461,403; loaned from branches, 1,430,670. Circulation, home use, per capita, 3.57. Total number shipments to branches and schools, 4,297; to branches only, 2,665 shipments of a total of 88,740 books; to schools, 98,460 books. Borrowers, 83,719; at branches, 79,864. Registered borrowers constitute 20.47 per cent of population. Community branches, 182 (with 70 reading rooms). Farthest branch, 116 miles. Schools served, 154. Total distributing points, 336. Total visits to branches by librarians, 2,830. Library owns two book automobiles. A four-tenths mill county tax gave \$237,889.32. Total yearly receipts, \$300,897.41.

*Jefferson County, Birmingham, Ala.*—In 1924 the county contracted with Birmingham Public Library. Serves county population, outside Birmingham and two other towns, of 107,571. In 1926 there were 63 county library stations



Fig. 15.—Librarian of Los Angeles County Library (Calif.), delivering books by book automobile to Honby branch library, 50 miles from headquarters

(40 in schools) and 10,000 books in the county library. Circulation, 66,134. Owns one book automobile. County votes \$10,000 yearly.

*Harris County, Houston, Tex.*—Established 1921. Serves population of 48,391 outside of Houston. In 1926 owned 22,785 volumes; has 71 rural stations; 132,825 books were circulated from all branches that year. Service cost estimated 11 cents per book. Library has use of a county automobile. Cost of library operation, \$17,211.47. County gives \$17,000. Staff is composed of the county librarian, three assistant librarians, and three clerks.

*LaCrosse County, LaCrosse, Wis.*—Establishment (1924) proposed by farmer member of county board of supervisors. Serves population of 13,934 outside of LaCrosse. In 1926 owned 3,114 books. Had 40 traveling libraries, circulation, 3,514; required school reading circulation, 2,746; total county circulation, 8,162. County appropriated \$1,600 in 1926, which was double the appropriation for 1925. Assessed valuation outside of LaCrosse, \$17,213,429.

*Hamilton County, Chattanooga, Tenn.*—Established in 1909. Operated under contract with Chattanooga Public Library. Serves 58,059 country people. In 1925 owned 81,035 books and 6,245 pamphlets. Had 9 permanent branches with 1,500 books each, 63 stations which had 50 books for 2 months. County circulation in 1910 was 2,850; in 1925 was 85,069. Publications of the United States Department of Agriculture are much circulated. There were 220 borrowers of agricultural bulletins in 1926. One exclusive county-work librarian. County gave \$1,500 in 1910, \$8,400 in 1926, \$15,000 in 1927.

*Warren County, Monmouth, Ill.*—Established by popular vote, taking over endowed county fee library. Serves whole county, 21,488 people. In 1926 had 4 branches, 8 stations, and 33,000 books. There were 7,620 card holders (3,127 in branches). County circulation, 148,046; branches' circulation, 53,640. Eight-tenths mill tax gave \$18,000.

*Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Minn.*—Operates under contract with Minneapolis Library. Serves rural population of 34,837. In 1925 had 19 branches, 13 stations, collections in 75 schools, and operated direct monthly book-automobile service to 168 farmers. County-library collection was 24,533 volumes. Volumes distributed, 22,474. Branch circulation, 161,783; stations, 9,809; schools, 13,402; book automobile to homes, 10,171; total circulation, 195,165. Valuation county library equipment, \$26,273.54. Library expenditures during 1925, \$24,322.64. One-mill county tax gives \$25,808.

*Phillips County, Malta, Mont.*—Established in 1917. Serves 9,311 people in area of 5,178 square miles. In 1926 owned 6,410 books. Had 20 rural branches and 45 school stations. Farthest branch, 89 miles away. In 1926, 20,309 books were sent out from Malta. One-fourth mill tax gives \$3,041.17.

*Allen County, Fort Wayne, Ind.*—Operates under contract with Fort Wayne Library. Serves 27,754 rural people. In 1926 had 4 branches with buildings



FIG. 16.—Branch Library at Lookout Junior High School, St. Elmo, Hamilton County, Tenn.

erected by county; 17 stations in stores, farm houses, etc., with librarians' salaries of \$5 to \$20 monthly paid by county. Owns one book automobile. Had 176 schoolroom collections in 98 schools. County gives \$23,389.

*Washington County, Greenville, Miss.*—Operates under contract with Greenville Library. In 1926 had five public library stations in consolidated schools. Owned 17,500 books. Furnishes reference books for schools. County gives \$1,200 for rural population of 22,498. A start toward real county library service.

*Jefferson County, Louisville, Ky.*—Operates under contract with Louisville Library. Serves rural population of 51,478. In 1926 had 17,665 books, 25 rural stations (20 white, 5 colored), 145 classroom collections (113 white, 32 colored) in 67 rural schools. Stations maintained by county. Owns one book automobile. County station circulation 60,212. County gives \$12,500.

#### ADVANTAGES OF THE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

This study of the more than 100 rural libraries seemed to show that among them the advantage was decidedly with the county sys-

tem. This system seems to offer equality of opportunity, service, and economy.

#### EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Farmers ask nothing more along economic, educational, social, or other lines than equal opportunity with other groups. In library matters the county system gives them this because under this plan the people pay for what they receive and receive what they pay for. They receive according to what they pay, as do other groups. In the case of a library system supported by a county tax, equal-pay opportunity comes through taxation fixed by the people or by county-elected officials. Equal service is approximated through use of local branches and stations with transported and changing book supplies; advice and service of visiting trained librarian; and availability of central library. Equal control and management come through county-elected officials or their appointees.

In the case of contract libraries, county-elected representatives determine the county part of the library budget and have county representatives on the management boards, whereas the library gives service through branches and stations proportionate to the amount the county pays as determined by a management in which the county shares. A town with an existing library may come in or may stay outside of the system.

#### SERVICE

The taxable wealth of a large unit, the county, is behind the service of a county library. A large and well-selected book stock is available, in the selection of which rural interests are considered. Changing supplies of books, both general and agricultural, are transported directly to the farmer's home or neighborhood.

An expert librarian, who has had from one to three years of library-school training, directs the system, gives assistance in book selection, and offers expert advice to branch librarians and to library users on the days of her visits. This librarian cooperates with the county agent, county superintendent, and all rural organizations in the interest of the farmer's library welfare; she influences the lives of farm boys and girls; for men and women her educational and social influence is incalculable in country districts. Direct mail service from the main library is available to the most isolated farmer, and special books may be requested by telephone. Direct service at the central office is equally available. Service is given to any small-town library that may wish to preserve its identity. Schools are served with reference books, supplementary material, and books for children.

A larger proportion of the library funds are expended for service than for large buildings or for salaries of untrained librarians. Library service is made intimately known to country people who know little of city or State services and hesitate to use them when they are available. (Fig. 17.)

#### ECONOMY

The extensive unit area, the large population, and the available wealth of the average rural county make it possible to establish a

library that will give better service and more nearly equal opportunities to farm people at less expense than does any other rural or small-city unit. A recent study of rural social institutions in Wisconsin, in which the United States Department of Agriculture co-operated, concludes that 4,000 population is the minimum for good library service at standard cost.<sup>6</sup> Savings are made through (1) quantity purchases, (2) reduction of overhead cost of tools and operation, (3) lessening the accumulation of unused books, for if one group does not care for them another group may, (4) expert selection of books, including expensive reference books, (5) county service



FIG. 17.—A county library display. Part of an armistice day anniversary parade

of a trained librarian, (6) free exchange of books, and (7) lowered building costs.

The experience of California and other States seems to prove that schools that are served with reference and supplementary books through the county library receive much better service at less expense than through any other method. Comparisons of rural county library service with service of libraries in small cities of similar populations indicate that better service is given in counties at considerable less expense than is given in such cities. Many small cities that have tried to maintain their library individuality after the county system was

<sup>6</sup> KOLB, J. H. SERVICE INSTITUTIONS FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY. Wis. Agr. Expt. St. Research Bul. 66, 61 pp., illus. 1925.

started have later joined the county system as a matter of economy. If any small city has left the county system the fact is not generally known.

As between the full county system and the system under which a county contracts with a city library, country people appear to receive better service at less expense under the full county system, especially after initial establishment. In some localities good county library service is being given both to city and to country people at less than the cost of one good book per capita. A high grade of service to city and country people and to schools is being given in many rural counties at a maximum tax of 0.5 mill. The National Grange, by resolution, indorsed the county-library plan in 1923 and the Women's Auxiliary of the American Farm Bureau Federation indorsed the plan in 1927. The General Federation of Women's Clubs and National Congress of Parents and Teachers actively support the plan.

### HOW LIBRARIES ARE STARTED

Establishing a library before the time for one is ripe or establishing the wrong type of library often results in a struggling library and a bad impression which retards library development for many years. Expert advice is first sought if no mistakes are to be made. It has been found to be best, before starting a library, to communicate with the State library commission or State library, or if the State has neither, to write to the American Library Association, 86 East Randolph Street, Chicago, Ill. Sometimes an individual-trained librarian can give good advice. The State library law should be studied. Whether a State library is to be instituted and what kind to be established should be determined by a careful survey of the whole situation.

### THE SURVEY

This survey is usually made by a committee that represents those interested in establishing the library, preferably aided by a representative of the State library commission. Since a political unit which has large financial and population support and yet is small enough to be effectively administered has been found to be best for this purpose, the county system is generally the objective in those States that authorize it. In some instances the compact township or the school-district unit may seem to promise the best service. Sometimes a small town located in a county of limited financial resources and small population appears to find the library problem best solved by a town library that offers its facilities for the use of country people. Even a membership-fee library, where no better kind can be obtained, has been found to meet some rural situations.

In any event, a careful survey by a group of trained persons who have in mind the greatest good for the greatest number, now and in the future, and a study of the experiences of similar libraries and of existing library laws, will determine the best type. After the type has been chosen much still remains to be decided. In the case of the county and other large-unit libraries there are the questions of actual library needs; existing library facilities, and whether existing libraries will enter the new system or remain outside; the

taxable wealth of the unit; the amount of money needed for the best service and the amount obtainable, which involves the present county taxes, their distribution and use, and possible savings to be made; the tax rate needed to produce this money, based on population and property valuation; possible location of library headquarters and branches, stations, and school collections; distribution of population, and of highways, electric lines, rural-mail routes, railroads, and other means of transportation; the number of probable library users in each community; and the question whether this is the propitious time to start a campaign for the type of library decided upon. Surveys for smaller-unit libraries will include many of the same items.

#### THE CAMPAIGN

After the type of library has been determined upon, a campaign is helpful in getting this type accepted. The purpose of the campaign is to convince the public of the value of library service and of the type determined upon, so that the citizens will be willing to pay for the service, knowing that they will get value received, and to show that library service is a public utility rather than a luxury or a charity. The campaign involves many or all of the following: (1) Formation of a directing organization of many widely chosen representatives of various organizations and of the press, with an executive committee for direct action, (2) continuous, intelligent, systematic use of all available press service, (3) convincing public officials, especially those directly involved, of the need and demand for library service, (4) continual discussion through press, pulpit, school, women's clubs, and other community organizations and moving-picture houses, (5) securing the interest of leaders of political organizations, both men and women, (6) circulation of petitions to be signed and presented to public officials whose duty it is finally to determine the question, or whose authorization may be needed to present the question to popular vote, (7) making known the actual cost and service benefits, (8) use of popular devices like placards, posters, slogans, tags, buttons, and endless-chain telephone messages, and (9) a final public termination of the campaign on the day the question is to be decided.

#### THE BOOK AUTOMOBILE

The book automobile is an important adjunct of library service to rural communities, especially in connection with county libraries. It is a means of transporting books from the central library to branches, stations, schools, and individual farm families, and a means of their return. It also transports the central librarian in her visits to these places. Many county libraries are giving very good country book service through the mails and by other methods of transportation, but the book automobile makes possible a more equal, complete, and regular service to country people. It has been defined as "a library station on wheels." Its forerunner was the horse-drawn "book wagon," first used by the library of Washington County, Md., in 1905, to transport books direct to country people. This county is now using a book automobile. In 1923 it gave periodical service direct to 3,500 country men, women, and children.

The book automobile usually consists of an automobile chassis upon which has been placed a specially built covered body about 8 feet long. Back of the driver's seat, bookshelves are placed on either side which hold 500 or more books. The body has doors or windows in the rear and the sides, sometimes of glass. These doors or windows are built to slide or rise to display the books. Some of the book automobiles have an interior folding charging desk placed back of a revolving seat beside the driver. Others have a two-section back door; one section can be lifted as a weather protection and the other can be lowered to form a charging desk. Some large counties have 2-ton book automobiles that carry supplies and furniture for branches as well as the books. The township library of Middletown, N. J., has a book automobile which carries 500 books to 13 stations and to private homes. Monroe County, N. Y., inaugurated a county traveling library system in 1923, using a 2-ton bus chassis with a specially built body which shelved 1,600 volumes and accommodated from 15 to 20 persons.

Many counties use an ordinary automobile and carry books in the body. It may be the county-library machine or the librarian's private car for which the county allows expenses for library use. Library signs are conspicuously placed on the book automobiles.

The original expense of the usual reconstructed car varies from \$400 to \$600 for the car and from \$300 to \$500 for the special body. Maintenance expenses vary. Camden County, N. J., had a garage expense of \$364.24 out of a total library expenditure of \$8,336 for 1923, covering the delivery of books by the librarian to 133 rural stations about three times each week to each station.

Hennepin County, Minn., had \$476.08 book-automobile expense in 1925, out of a total expenditure of \$24,322.64. Regular visits were made by the librarian or assistant to 107 county distributing points and 168 individual rural homes in distributing 22,474 books. The city and county library at Greenville, S. C., operates two book automobiles and a trailer. For the county car in 1925, garage rent was \$60 yearly; gas, oil, and repairs \$153.21; insurance and license \$58.16. Cass County, Ind., with a yearly car service of 5,488 miles, reports \$265.10 for automobile maintenance—less than 5 cents a mile. The book-automobile of Harris County, Tex., costs \$50 monthly for upkeep. The library book automobile of Coahoma County, Miss., transported the librarian and 13,050 books to 21 stations in 1925, at a car expense of \$230 for oil, gas, repairs, etc. The librarian usually drives the car.

Perhaps the most valuable factor of book-automobile service is the trained librarian who accompanies the automobile to branches, stations, schools, and rural communities. Opinions differ as to the relative value of book-automobile factors. A leading official of Jefferson County, Ala., in evaluating these factors and their influence on rural communities in that county, ranks the books two-tenths, the book-automobile one-tenth, and the county librarian seven-tenths. It is well to remember that if it were not for the book-automobile the books might arrive less frequently and regularly, and the county librarian might come but rarely. (Fig. 18.)

## LIBRARY BUILDINGS

Service, or getting the books to the people, is the objective of good libraries. A trained librarian gives surprisingly good service even without a fine library building. Many expensive buildings have poor service. Much money has been wasted in providing monumental buildings, a part of which could have been used much better in providing for the services of a trained, or at least experienced, librarian or for the extension of library service to farm people. Librarianship, like teaching, is a profession which requires special training for best results, under modern conceptions of library functions, although there are many examples of good service performed



FIG. 18.—Librarian of Camden County (N. J.) Library, delivering books by book automobile at a rural branch library

by untrained librarians in times past under primitive conditions and former conceptions of library functions.

In county libraries, particularly, a trained librarian is of great importance in selecting books, cooperating with public officials, preparing budgets, directing expenditures, and furnishing effective service to distant branches and stations. Here an expensive, elaborate building is unnecessary as most of the books are in branches, stations, and schools. A substantial, well-planned building is a medium of effective service, even for a country library, but the building should not be at the expense of service. Complete service in rented quarters is better than incomplete service in a fine building. Building plans drawn for city library buildings are not always suitable for county buildings, as special packing and distributing spaces, country women's rest rooms, and children's rooms may be more important in a county than in a city library.

In all types of libraries the building is an important adjunct. It stimulates local pride, gives satisfaction to those who have worked for and are responsible for establishing the library, gives dignity and stability to the service, and, when rightly planned, facilitates good library operation.

Experience has evolved certain good practices regarding buildings: They are usually planned by library architects who are familiar with modern-library functions. If another building is to be duplicated it is one which particularly fits the local type needed. The librarian who takes charge of the building is consulted in the planning. Dignity, attractiveness, endurance qualities, and serviceability are more important than ornate or showy features. Allowance is made for growth and extension of service. A donated building is not accepted unless there is assurance of sufficient future income for good library service. Whether a building has a public assembly room, museum, or art gallery depends largely upon local conditions, including the probable need and utilization, and whether there will be sufficient funds to maintain them after real library service is provided for. The library is so located as to facilitate its use by the greatest number of people. The modern trend is to build near the business center where many pass, and to build on or near the street line, perhaps on its level, for ease of entrance and possibility of window book display. The building is surrounded by well-kept grounds. The State library commission is consulted on building problems.

#### LIBRARY PUBLICITY

Of what use is a library book on hog cholera, or a bulletin on the hot-pack method of canning, or a good book of fiction to a farm family if the family does not know that the book is in the library or even in existence? "No scrub books" has become the modern library slogan. Books must pay their way or go. The progressive farmer disposes of animals that do not pay for themselves in use; a progressive librarian takes similar action as to books. The modern merchant hunts his market and does not wait for the market to find him. So with the modern librarian. Quick turnovers is an up-to-date business preference which has been adopted by up-to-date librarians. To have quick turnovers, the availability of the book when needed, must be known.

Some librarians set aside a definite sum from the budget for publicity purposes. Successful publicity convinces people that the library has what they want. The modern librarian uses various methods to give publicity to her wares.

Interesting news and items about the library are furnished to all county papers and for the county agent's news letters, together with lists of new books and lists of special books available for special problems of particular occupations or groups.

Library exhibits are attractively arranged at local, county, and State fairs, and groups of special books are displayed at meetings of particular groups. (Fig. 19.)

Decorated floats are placed in parades and pageants and are used on other gala occasions.

Illustrated bulletins and posters are placed on library walls, in windows, on outside bulletin boards, and in other outside places.

In travels over the county, many occasions are found by the librarian to tell rural groups about the library.

Many new libraries are being located in the busiest part of town, close to or on the street, with doors at street level to facilitate entrance. If the library is placed at a distance from the street, easy entrance is provided; architecture is made inviting; and the grounds are attractively laid out.

Window displays are used at all times, but locating the library on the street level near the building line gives great opportunity for attractive book displays, especially of new books and books on selected subjects.

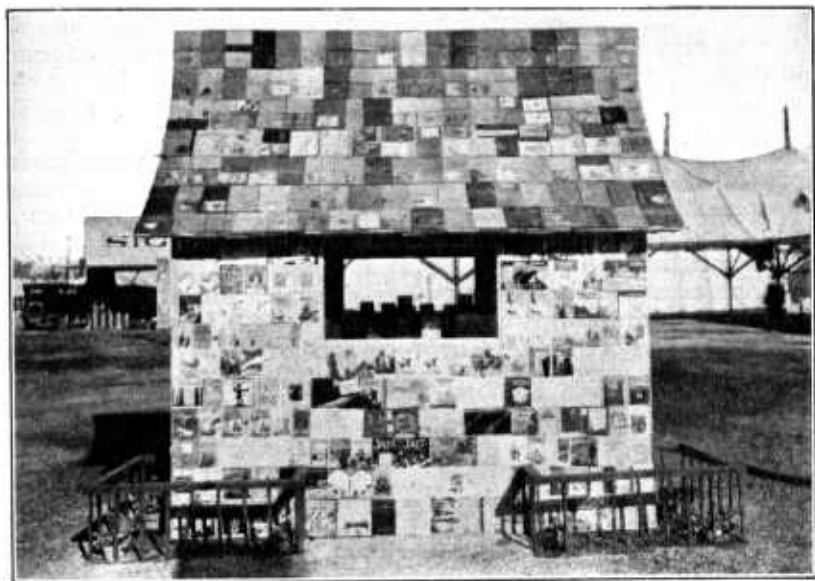


FIG. 19.—A book-jacket library exhibit made by a county free library on the county fair grounds

Good rural librarians join rural organizations in order to learn how they can serve rural people most effectively. New Jersey county librarians have joined the grange.

County libraries that own book automobiles make effective use of them in travels about the county, giving publicity to the library, interpreting the book needs of farm people, and making known the possibilities of the library in solving the special problems of the farms. North Carolina, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and Oregon use the book automobile over the State to advertise both State and county service.

Large, attractive library signs at headquarters, smaller uniform signs at all branches and stations, and adequate signs on the book automobile remind all citizens of free book service. The large "County Free Library" electric sign of the library of Madera County, Calif. (fig. 14), makes a striking appeal.

Rural librarians cooperate in every possible way with county superintendents of schools, teachers, county agents, health officers, and farm bureau, grange and farmers' union officials, in order to make known the efficacy of library service.

Short, concise, and interesting bulletins informing rural people just what their library has and can do for them are used to advantage, as are clear, informative annual reports showing the best possible library service at the lowest cost with the money available.

Homelike, inviting library quarters and a friendly spirit of service on the part of all employees are distinct assets.

Local theaters are often willing to run interesting library slides or short films.

Annual celebrations are useful, such as library day, when the library keeps open house and invites all the citizens to view its workings; and children's book week, a special week for children.

The service that a library gives is the most effective form of publicity.

#### CONCLUSION

Farm and village communities have established various successful types of library service. A number of States have, by statute, made possible the establishment of the best types of libraries for farm and village people. The officials of many counties, townships, and villages have instituted, by local financing, various successful rural libraries. Various library agencies and librarians have been active in assisting rural people to secure a number of successful types of library service. The purposes of this bulletin will be accomplished if rural people, State legislators, local officials, and library agencies, in view of demonstrated accomplishments, cooperate to make rural library service, as compared with other forms of public service, equal, efficient, and complete.

---

#### ADDITIONAL COPIES

OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE PROCURED FROM  
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS  
U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AT

10 CENTS PER COPY

